

Podgorny dies at 79

MOSCOW (R) — Former Soviet head of state Nikolai Podgorny has died at the age of 79, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet said. An official at the presidium, answering a telephone inquiry, said Mr. Podgorny's death would be officially announced in the government newspaper Izvestia Wednesday. Mr. Podgorny was head of state from 1965 to 1977. He lost his job as head of state suddenly in 1977, apparently after a confrontation with Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev, who wanted the post himself. Mr. Podgorny, generally regarded as one of the more influential members of the party politburo, was expelled unceremoniously from the ruling body on May 24, 1977.

Podgorny obituary, page 8

الدنيا في الأردن

Jordan Times

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Saudis patch up ties with Libya

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia said Wednesday its ambassador to Libya would return to his post in Tripoli very soon, indicating a thaw in their tense, long-standing relations. The official Saudi Press Agency quoted an official source for a three-line report which did not name the envoy. Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil exporter, cut diplomatic relations with Libya in October 1981 after Tripoli denounced the kingdom for obtaining U.S. radar surveillance planes to protect its oilfields at the start of the Gulf war. The two countries re-established diplomatic ties in December 1981 but relations remained tense.

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British officials optimistic about Arab team's visit

LONDON (R) — British officials expressed optimism Wednesday that a much-delayed visit by an Arab League delegation to discuss Middle East peace proposals would take place soon. The delegation's visit to London has been called off three times. The main problem has been British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's refusal to receive any Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official. This refusal sparked off a row between Britain and the Arab World and Foreign Secretary Francis Pym was forced to call off a trip to Saudi Arabia and two other Gulf states. The Foreign Office sounded a distinctly optimistic note Wednesday about the prospects of arranging the delegation's visit but declined to confirm statements by Moroccan officials that the mission would visit London on Feb. 7.

Coal discovered in Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, said Wednesday it had discovered coal for the first time. The ministry of petroleum and mineral resources told the Saudi Press Agency that detailed studies were being carried out in an area 15 kilometres by 30 kilometres around Muzanma' in the north. Saudi Arabia has found a wide range of minerals, including gold, copper, silver, iron ore, aluminium and uranium, but at present only crude oil resources are being exploited.

NATO to study Warsaw Pact proposals

BRUSSELS (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said Wednesday it would carefully study the arms control and peace proposals made at a summit meeting of the Communist Warsaw Pact in Prague last week. In a guarded first official reaction as a group, the allies recalled that they had also introduced a full range of initiatives of their own in the various international negotiations on arms control and cooperation.

Thatcher ends Falklands visit

PORT STANLEY (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ended an emotional five-day tour of the Falklands, hailed by the inhabitants as the liberator of their islands. Mrs. Thatcher, who led Britain to war with Argentina over the disputed islands last year, arrived on Saturday on a visit which boosted the morale of the 4,000-man British garrison and the 1,800 local inhabitants. She left in an air force Hercules escorted by Phantom fighter bombers for the gruelling 23-hour flight to Britain. The "iron lady," who rarely displays her emotions, blinked back tears when she became the first person to receive the freedom of the Falkland Islands at a reception on Monday. On Tuesday she wept openly as the crew of the warship Antares presented her with a replica of their ship, hit by a bomb during the conflict.

Iraqis shoot down Iranian jet fighter

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday night its air defence units shot down an Iranian jet fighter and an unmanned reconnaissance plane Wednesday. A high command military communiqué said the two planes were shot down over the Shih area in the southern sector of the Gulf war front. "Our advanced units and observation posts saw the two planes exploding in the air," it said. Iranian artillery shelled the southern Iraqi city of Basra Wednesday and two border towns causing damage to several civilian installations, it added. The communiqué gave no Iranian casualties, but said Iraqi forces destroyed one 155mm artillery gun and one vehicle in the central sector during the past 24 hours.

Reagan's plan to delay Begin trip angers Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel reacted angrily Wednesday to suggestions that the United States might postpone a visit by Prime Minister Menachem Begin if Israeli-Lebanese talks fail to make headway.

Mr. Begin's press spokesman, Uri Porat, described the reports, in the Israeli press, as outrageous and infantile gossip.

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, sent back to the Middle East to break the deadlock in Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, meets Mr. Begin Thursday.

Citing Washington sources, newspapers and state radio said he was carrying a note from President Reagan urging a supreme effort to get the talks moving and hinting that Mr. Begin's Washington trip next month would be postponed if there was no breakthrough.

The U.S. embassy said it could not confirm the reports.

While Mr. Habib consulted here with American experts, Israeli ministers discussed the latest U.S. compromise for an

agenda for the negotiations on withdrawing Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Informed sources said the ministerial committee, headed by Mr. Begin, decided to seek certain changes to the U.S. proposals when the talks resume in the Israeli frontier town of Kiryat Shmona Thursday.

According to reports from Beirut, Lebanon has agreed, with one reservation, to a proposal for a composite agenda put by Morris Draper, head of a U.S. team which is also taking part in the talks.

Five rounds of negotiations have so far failed to reach agreement on an agenda.

Israel, determined to extract political gains from last year's invasion of Lebanon, is insisting

that normalisation of relations between the two countries should be a major topic.

Lebanon, anxious not to upset the Arab World, does not want the word normalisation on the agenda and says the talks must make withdrawal of the estimated 30,000 Israeli troops the top priority.

Since President Reagan recalled Mr. Habib, Israeli officials have been fiercely rejecting suggestions that Israel is largely to blame for the deadlock.

U.S.-Israeli relations have been chilly for months, with Washington voicing increasing dismay over Mr. Begin's refusal to heed appeals to stop building Jewish settlements in the Palestinian West Bank.

The Israeli prime minister rejected Mr. Reagan's peace plan last September calling for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank in association with Jordan.

The two leaders were due to meet last November but the meeting was cancelled because of the death of Mr. Begin's wife.

Wazzan meets Tripoli factional leaders

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan Wednesday met government officials and factional leaders in the northern city of Tripoli, where a ceasefire four days ago ended a month of battles between rival armed groups.

Security sources said it had been decided to send 50 more police to Tripoli where the fragile ceasefire has been threatened by a shortage of police to enforce it. There was no immediate word on when the

extra police would arrive.

The police have an effective force of only 200 men in Tripoli according to well-placed local sources and security in the slum areas which saw the worst fighting is now in practice in the hands of heavily-armed Palestinian commandos.

"Mr. Wazzan later returned to Beirut but he left Lebanon's police chief, Hisham Al Sha'ar, in Tripoli to follow up develop-

ments. Mr. Sha'ar decided his men should man six permanent posts in the former battlezones but it was not clear when they would move in.

About 250 people are believed to have been killed and 1,000 wounded in the month of fighting between pro-Syrian militiamen and anti-Syrian groups including leftists and Muslim fundamentalists.

Reagan announces resignation of U.S. health secretary

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Wednesday announced the resignation of Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker and named former Congresswoman Margaret Heckler as his successor.

If Mrs. Heckler's nomination is approved by the Senate, she will become the second woman Reagan has appointed to head a cabinet department.

Mr. Schweiker, who is leaving to take up a post in private business, is the second cabinet officer to step down in the past two weeks.

Late last month, former Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis announced his resignation, effective on Feb. 1, and the president then nominated Elizabeth Dole, wife of Kansas Republican Senator Robert Dole, to replace him.

Mrs. Heckler is the fourth woman to be picked by President Reagan for a high-level job.

He chose Jeanne Kirkpatrick as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Sandra Day O'Con-

nor as a supreme court justice. President Reagan said in his announcement Wednesday that Mrs. Heckler "has proved herself a practical and compassionate public servant."

He praised Mr. Schweiker's service, saying: "Many of our efforts to control the spiralling cost of government have depended on his enterprise."

As Health and Human Services Secretary, Mr. Schweiker headed a department of more than 160,000 employees responsible for some of the government's biggest programmes such as social security.

Mrs. Heckler had served in the House of Representatives since 1966 as a Massachusetts Republican but was defeated in the November elections by another incumbent, Democratic representative Barney Frank.

Mr. Schweiker resigned to become President of the American Council of Life Insurance, a lobby group for the Life Insurance Industry.

Israelis seal off Hebron

HEBRON, West Bank (R) — Israeli soldiers sealed off this West Bank town Wednesday as Jewish settlers and local Palestinians confronted each other on a rocky hillside nearby.

As settlers looked on, Hebron municipal workers erected four electricity pylons for the third time in a week. Settlers have twice toppled the pylons under cover of darkness, cutting the electricity supply of four Arab families.

Last Saturday, settlers also demolished a house being built by a local Arab. They said the land was intended for expanding the Jewish suburb of Kiryat Arba.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche told Reuters Wednesday the dispute over the pylons was just one aspect of a struggle between Jews and Arabs for control of land in and around Hebron.

"The Israelis are trying to take over. They want to drive the Arabs away. We shall fight them because we wish to live here on our land," he said.

Israeli soldiers sealed off Hebron, declaring it a closed military area.

About 30 Israeli left-wingers, members of the "peace now" movement which opposes Israeli settlements on the West Bank, tried to reach the site of the pylons.



Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation headed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrives at Moscow Airport Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

Hikmat Masri: PLO will have to choose peace team

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is not important that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace negotiating team, if and when formed, should include an official from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as long as the Palestinian side is chosen by the organisation, a leading West Bank leader said here Wednesday.

Mr. Hikmat Al Masri, the chairman of the board of trustees of Al Najah University, told the Jordan Times that "there is no difference between Palestinians and PLO officials because it is the plight and the struggle of all the Palestinian people."

Mr. Masri, who served as minister of agriculture and speaker of the Jordanian parliament before 1967, added that the Palestinians have reached a stage that their very existence is at stake.

"Israel is going ahead with its plan of Judaizing the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in view of the current intensification of Israeli settlements, we shall be faced by a

fait accompli if a solution for the Palestinian question is not reached in the near future," he said.

Mr. Masri stressed that now is the time for Arabs to move towards seeking a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East question.

He pointed out that the peace proposals put forward by U.S. President Reagan on Sept. 1 "can serve as a good basis for peace negotiations on the grounds that it calls for a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and for a freeze on Israeli settlements."

"These objectives of the Reagan initiative cannot be implemented unless all parties concerned announce their approval and enter into negotiations," Mr. Masri said.

As for the "negative aspects" of the Reagan peace plan represented in its ignoring the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and statehood, he said that "these important issues can be subjected

to negotiations with the Americans."

The most important issue which should be given a priority in any move for a solution is to stop or at least to freeze the build-up of Israeli settlements and the Reagan plan includes this point," Mr. Masri added.

Referring to his recent meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Masri said that Egypt is ready to exert all its efforts to serve the Palestinian cause.

"The Egyptians are even willing to participate in any future peace negotiations based on all proposed peace initiatives," he said. Mr. Masri, who plans to leave for the West Bank Thursday, said that the Israeli arrest of 10 students at Al Najah University Monday is "a convincing example of the oppression under which Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have been living for the last 15 years."

"The board of trustees of Al Najah University will do its best, under the circumstances, to work on the release of the detained students," Mr. Masri said.

Israel starts rebuilding Zairean army

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli military experts have begun reorganising Zaire's army and Israel will supply arms to President Mobutu Sese Seko's forces, the Belgian daily La Libre Belgique said Wednesday.

Zaire was the first black African country to resume diplomatic relations last year with Israel, broken off since the 1973 Israeli-Arab war, and Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon is due to leave for Kinshasa this weekend.

The newspaper, in a dispatch from its correspondent in Israel quoting informed Israeli sources, said Zairean military personnel

were already being trained in Israel.

It said Zaire asked Israel to reorganise fundamentally and rearm its armed forces when a high-level Israeli military delegation led by Gen. Avraham Tamir, one of Mr. Sharon's advisers, visited Kinshasa last year.

The correspondent said part of the arms supplies could come from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) stocks captured during the Israeli intervention in Lebanon.

He said plans drafted by Gen. Tamir to reorganise the Zairean army would be finalised when Mr. Sharon meets President Mobutu

next week.

Israel played a major part in training the Zairean army in the 1970s and President Mobutu himself was trained as a paratrooper officer by the Israelis.

France, Belgium, and the United States have military cooperation agreements with Zaire and French paratroopers were dropped on Kolwezi to help recapture the mining city attacked by Angola-based rebels in 1978.

La Libre Belgique said Israel had no intention of pledging any help to Zaire in case of external aggression or internal troubles.

Afghan guerrillas kidnap 15 Soviet advisers

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — An Afghan resistance spokesman confirmed Wednesday that 15 Soviet advisers were kidnapped by guerrillas from a town in northern Afghanistan.

Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, said Tuesday Afghan guerrillas last week abducted 10 Soviet civilian advisers, including

two women, from the main bazaar of Mazar-i-Sharif, capital of Balkh province which borders the Soviet Union.

"It is true this has happened," resistance alliance spokesman Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani told Reuters after a meeting of its "Majlis-i-Shoora" (consultative assembly).

He put the number of kid-

napped Russians at 15. Information received by the alliance did not say when the kidnapping occurred but it could have been two weeks ago, he said.

Professor Rabbani, whose Jamiat Islami Afghanistan group is a part of the seven-member resistance alliance, would not say which group was responsible for the kidnapping.

Arafat, Andropov hold talks

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Communist Party leader Yuri Andropov held talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the Kremlin Wednesday, the official TASS news agency reported.

Mr. Arafat, head of a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), arrived in Moscow Tuesday for what were believed to be talks covering the state of recent negotiations aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East.

Western diplomats said it was likely that Mr. Andropov expressed concern at growing Arab involvement in U.S. efforts to find a Middle East settlement.

Moscow is bitterly opposed to President Reagan's peace plan, which calls for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Arab countries, however, have not rejected the U.S. plan and Mr. Arafat has been quoted as saying that he found some positive elements in it, though it failed to mention the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Jordan invited to non-aligned conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday received an official invitation from India to attend the seventh non-aligned conference scheduled to be held in New Delhi March 7-11.

The invitation, from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to His Majesty King Hussein, was handed over Wednesday to Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi by the Indian ambassador-designate to Jordan, Mr. Pyare Lal Santoshi.

At their meeting at the Foreign Ministry Mr. Qasbi and Mr. Santoshi also discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them.

The venue of the seventh non-aligned conference, originally scheduled to take place in Baghdad last September, was shifted to the Indian capital due to the Iraq-Iran war.

At the forthcoming conference, Mrs. Gandhi will take over the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement from the current chairman, President Fidel Castro of Cuba.

"The Mujahideen (Islamic fighters) did it," he said.

He refused to give details about the kidnapped advisers but hinted that they were still in an area vulnerable to Soviet and Afghan government troops.

"Details will be given only after they are transferred to a safe place," he said.

Andropov ready to discuss scrapping some SS-20 missiles

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov has said Moscow would be ready to discuss scrapping some of its SS-20 medium-range missiles as part of an East-West arms reduction settlement, West German sources said Wednesday.

They said the offer was made during more than two hours of talks Tuesday between the Communist Party chief and Hans-Jochen Vogel, Social Democrat (SPD) candidate for the chancellorship in West Germany's March election.

Mr. Vogel indirectly confirmed the news at a press conference Wednesday at the close of his three-day visit to Moscow. But he

said he could make no detailed comment on the issue until he had informed the Bonn government.

Mr. Andropov announced on Dec. 21 that Moscow was ready to reduce the number of SS-20s deployed in Europe to the level of the combined missile forces of France and Britain—162.

Western leaders said a major flaw in the offer was that it remained unclear what would happen to the weapons, and said the NATO alliance would insist they were scrapped and not simply withdrawn to Asia or put in storage.

On Tuesday the two chief Soviet arms negotiators, Viktor Karpov and Yuli Kvitsinsky, told a

group of visiting U.S. congressmen the Kremlin would "consider destroying" some of the missiles.

Mr. Vogel said Tuesday he had asked Mr. Andropov what would happen to the weapons and had been given important new details which had encouraged his hopes for a settlement at current U.S.-Soviet missile talks in Geneva.

Asked Wednesday to confirm that what he had heard was similar to the news given to the congressmen, Mr. Vogel said: "I cannot contradict this."

The sources said Mr. Andropov told the SPD candidate that Moscow would be prepared to discuss dismantling some of the weapons

and storing others.

Moscow has some 333 triple-warhead SS-20s deployed at present, around 220 of them aimed at Europe. Mr. Andropov's proposal means it would therefore have to dispose of about 60.

Western leaders have said the Soviet offer in any case does not go far enough.

Some argue that French and British missiles should not be included in the calculations at the Geneva talks.

Others say that even if they are, Moscow would have a three-fold advantage because the British and French weapons have only one, warhead.

Mr. Vogel held talks at the

White House with President Reagan last week and said Wednesday his visits to the U.S. and Soviet capitals had boosted his hopes for a settlement at the Geneva medium-range missile talks.

"We would rather be somewhat reserved than euphoric," he said. "But we are completing the journey to Washington and Moscow with greater hope than we began them."

This called for the removal of all Soviet medium-range missiles in exchange for the abandonment of plans to deploy new U.S. Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe.

HOME NEWS

'Arab-Americans better organised now,' Fulbright scholar says

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The disorganisation among Arab-Americans which existed before World War II is slowly being rooted out and the U.S. scene is being gradually influenced by their presence," a leading Arab-American said here Wednesday.

Dr. Victor Ayoub, delivering a lecture on "Arab-Americans and the U.S. Ethnic Experience" at the American Centre, said that because American Jews are "much better organised and militant to recognise their identity more than Arab-Americans they could make an impact much earlier on the American public scene."

He added that the "successful Jewish campaign has been derived from the ethnic experiences the Jews faced in the U.S. before and

after World War II."

Dr. Ayoub, a social anthropologist from Antioch College and a Fulbright professor teaching at Yarmouk University, pointing out the contrasts between American Jews and Arab-Americans in the U.S. society, referred to the ethnic experience they did not share before the war.

He said that they can be identified primarily by numbers. The number of Jewish immigrants to the U.S. before the war was much more than Arabs, Dr. Ayoub said.

Time is the second factor, he said, "based on the number of generations, and the persistent presence of Jews in the American scene which was more deeply felt than those of Arab immigrants."

The social and cultural characteristics of both minorities also differed, he said.

He went on to clarify that most of the Arab immigrants were of peasant origins, "from a culture that is significantly different from the Arab culture and this did not enable them to recognise their identity." On the other hand, the origin of most of the Jews, he said, is European, "which is an important factor that determines the notably different experience."

Dr. Ayoub pointed out that if Arabs suffered from antagonism in America before World War II, it was a discrimination as a foreigner.

"It was a period in which minorities were subjected to a hostile anti-foreigner feeling," he said.

The feeling of anti-Arabism in the U.S. started to develop after the war, he said.

"Arab-Americans became more conscious of their identity through the media, newspapers, films and lectures," Dr. Ayoub said.

"The fact that Arab-Americans were busy assimilating themselves in the American society was one of the major factors contributing to their inability to organise themselves as a strong group before the war," Dr. Ayoub explained.

"But now, they have a wider perspective of the Arab World itself, and hence became more aware of Middle East problems," he said.



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Dudin (third from left) and World Food Programme (WFP) Representative Adnan Raouf (to Mr. Dudin's right) Wednesday sign an agreement under which the WFP will provide JD 2.8 million in assistance to Jordan (Petra photo)

WFP grants JD 2.8m for highland reclamation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) will offer Jordan JD 2.8 million (\$10.3 million) in assistance to help the country carry out its third programme for developing highlands, in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Wednesday.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin and WFP Representative in Jordan Adnan Raouf signed the agreement which will be implemented between 1983 and 1985.

Under the agreement, WFP will supply the new phase of the project with 25,156 tonnes of food commodities for distribution to farmers participating in the project, and to the labourers engaged in afforestation.

The new project is expected to reclaim an area of 7,500 hectares of land for planting olive trees, and an area of about 5,200 hectares for planting forest and fodder trees.

In addition, about 27,000 cubic metres of cisterns, 35,000 metres of water courses and 300 kilometres of farm tracks and paths and feeder roads will be constructed under the project.

A WFP spokesman here said that the project aims principally at controlling reclaiming waste land in hilly areas which are severely affected by soil erosion and to grow olive and fruit-bearing and forest trees.

The new allocation brings to about JD 1.1 million the total value of WFP assistance to the project since 1965.

Alia College organises exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day exhibition of interior designs was opened at Queen Alia Community College here Wednesday.

On display are samples of architectural plans and interior designs as well as engineering projects and sketches prepared by female students of the college's designing department.



The exhibition of architecture models and interior designs which opened at the Princess Alia Community College Wednesday (Petra photo)

Electrical spare parts imports reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour Wednesday decided to reduce the percentage of import of electrical equipment spare parts by local agents from five per cent to three per cent.

The decision was taken in consideration of the fact that all local agents have sufficient spare parts for the Jordanian market, officials from the ministry said.

They added that this decision will be reviewed in case some of the agents fail to meet market demands.

Wihdat starts work on new housing units

AMMAN (J.T.) — Residents of Al Wihdat area Wednesday started building modern housing units on lands provided by the Urban Development Department (UDD). The units, east of Wihdat refugee camp, will replace the old homes with corrugated iron roofs in which many of Wihdat residents have been living.

The UDD, a special government agency, was established in July 1980 to construct homes for low-income families who will have houses that meet minimum standards of adequate shelter and comfort built at minimum cost.

The beneficiaries will be eligible for loans for both the land and houses whose designs were provided by UDD architects.

The UDD will also be building new housing units for the people of Wadi Umm Al Rimam, Wadi Al Haddadeh, Jabal Jofeh and Jabal Nuzha.

Travellers to West Bank asked to arrive early at bridges on Fridays

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department has requested those wishing to travel to the West Bank on Fridays to be at the crossing points before 4:30 a.m. A statement said that early arrival helps the authorities to facilitate the crossing.

Zarqa dismisses reported cases of diphtheria

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa District is free from diphtheria and all precautionary measures are being taken to combat the disease in case it appears. Health Department Director Abdul Aziz Al Shreideh said Wednesday.

Dr. Shreideh, who was speaking during a tour of health centres in Zarqa, Awajan and Ruseifeh, denied a report in one of the local newspapers that diphtheria cases have appeared in the district lately.

There were four suspected cases of diphtheria in Zarqa hospitals and these were discharged after laboratory and culture tests proved that they were not diphtheria, Dr. Shreideh added.

Qaddouri to attend Kuwait meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Fakhri Qaddouri leaves Amman for Kuwait Friday to take part in a joint meeting of seven Arab League organisations scheduled to open Saturday.

Delegates to the meeting will discuss a number of joint Arab projects including those aimed at achieving food security in the Arab World.

Dr. Qaddouri will also take part in a regional meeting to be held in Riyadh on Jan. 18 to discuss several Arab development projects in which international organisations are participating.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Military governor endorses sentences

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor Wednesday endorsed sentences handed down by the military court, fining 113 Jordanian merchants JD 30 each for violating Ministry of Supply regulations.

Course to open on management planning

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Public Administration (IPA), in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry, will open on Jan. 18 a 15-day training course on modern management. A number of employees from the private sector will attend the course in which several lectures on management planning will be delivered. The training course is designed to orient the participants on modern ways of planning development projects and following up their implementation.

33 complete university English course

AMMAN (Petra) — Thirty-three participants in an intensive English language course held at the University of Jordan Wednesday received their diplomas after completing a three-month course. The course would enable the participants to appear for an aptitude test, known as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), qualifying the successful students for admission to American universities. The TOEFL is conducted by the Amideast centre in Amman.

Team to oversee Aqaba reorganisation

AQABA (Petra) — Transport Minister Ali Suheimat Wednesday formed a special committee to supervise the implementation of work on reorganising the city of Aqaba. The committee comprises representatives of the Water Supply Corporation, the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Amman Water and Sewerage Authority as well as members of the Aqaba Urban Planning Committee.

New public building at Al Qasr

KARAK (Petra) — Al Qasr Municipality in Karak Governorate constructed a building complex to house government departments and a civil defence centre at a cost of JD 39,000 in the past year. A municipality spokesman said Wednesday that a tender has been announced for building two wings for 14 classrooms annexes for a boys school in the town and for constructing and asphalted roads, and the purchase of 12 dunums of land for building a public library and public park. The planned civil works are estimated to cost JD 45,460, the spokesman said.

ACC assets reflect increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Assets of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) increased by JD 2,609,000 in last September compared to September 1981. The ACC's assets in September 1982 totalled JD 388,402,000 compared to JD 385,793,000 in September 1981.

3 Egyptians die of suffocation

AMMAN (Petra) — Police found Tuesday three Egyptian workers dead in Al Juwaideh area. Public Security Department officials said the workers died of suffocation because they let a gasoline primus burning while they were asleep. The officials appealed to the public not to leave gasoline-operated heaters on when they go to bed as this might result in death due to suffocation.

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7-member gang of thieves falls into police net

AMMAN (Petra) — A seven-member gang, which police believe to have committed a number of thefts from cars and house break-ins in and around Amman, was arrested Wednesday.

A special police force surprised the gang members, including its leader, a Sudanese national living in Jordan, following a tipoff, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman added that at

the time of the arrest the gang members were drinking alcoholic beverages and planning further acts of robbery.

The Sudanese national, who is believed to be the leader of the gang, was the mastermind behind the crimes, the spokesman said.

The gang used to force open cars to steal tape recorders and break into homes at night for jewellery and other valuables, the spokesman said.

AOSM official to participate in Riyadh, Nairobi meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The secretary-general of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM), Zafer Al Sawwaf, will participate in an Arab inter-governmental meeting to be held in Riyadh on Jan. 18.

Dr. Sawwaf said Wednesday that participants in the meeting will discuss the general trends in Arab development projects financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the important role which standardisation could play in making Arab development projects succeed.

Dr. Sawwaf will also participate in the fourth general meeting of the African Metrology Organisation scheduled to be held in Nairobi on Jan. 24. The meeting is held once every three years and aims at developing Afro-Arab relations in the field of standardisation and metrology. Four Arab countries—Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Sudan—are members of the 21-state African organisation.

Irbid sets up team to enforce strict public safety regulations

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid Public Safety Committee Wednesday decided to set up a subcommittee to make inspection visits to stores and public places in Irbid to ensure that they abide by sanitary regulations.

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Irbid Governor Abed Khalaf Daoudieh, also discussed proposals taken up at a recent meeting held at the Ministry of Interior concerning measures to maintain strict control over health affairs and footstuffs and ways of reducing road accidents in Irbid Governorate.

Attending the meeting were Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat and heads of various government departments in Irbid and officials from Yarmouk University.

Jeffrey Smith -- globe-trotter on a wheelchair

AMMAN — Trotting the globe on a wheelchair is no doubt difficult, but for Jeffrey Smith, a 40-year-old Briton who is paralysed from the waist down, the tour is both interesting and useful.

Mr. Smith, who arrived in Amman Nov. 24, 1982, has already toured 40 countries on his wheelchair driving a Renault 4 fully equipped to make up for his disability.

"Paralysed people should not give up hope of leading a normal life, as is evident from my experience," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Smith has been on the road for the past 18 years.

The Briton, who has embarked on a task of preparing a book to guide disabled people if they wish to travel, said that "it is very important to know how to cope with the problem of being in a wheelchair and not being able to walk."

He said that he has been travelling around the world to prepare a book to be entitled "The Wheelchair Guide to the World."

The book will include all accessible hotels, museums, tourist

places in each country.

"My book includes the sizes of entrances, doors, rooms, number of steps and lifts in any place of interest that a disabled tourist wishes to visit."

He continued: "Any new hotel which is being built should make provisions for people in wheelchair, such as ramps, wide entrances, bathroom hand rails and light switches lower than normal."

He added that during his visit to Jordan, he has noticed that in some hotels there are specially designed rooms for the disabled.

For disabled people to play any kind of sports is not difficult if well trained by specialists, according to Mr. Smith.

"For 10 years I have participated in the national games for the disabled in England as well as in international games in which 30 countries participate each year," he said.

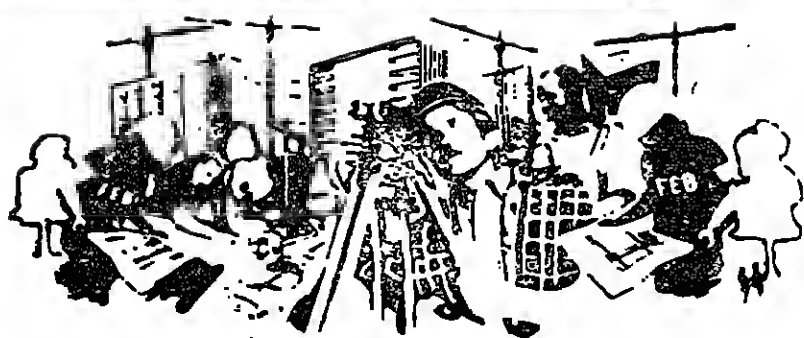
Mr. Smith will leave for Saudi Arabia in the next few days.

Sudan, Khartoum, and Ethiopia are the other countries in his itinerary.



AAK Jeffrey Smith with his wheelchair and special Renault (Photo by Youssef Al-Aiban)

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By Tony Barber

Reuter

Demonstrators surprise White House visitors

WASHINGTON — Demonstrators, with placards and banners denouncing or espousing a range of issues from feminism to nuclear weapons, surprise many tourists who visit the White House and its environs expecting a more stately atmosphere.

Every day, rain or shine, Concepcion Picciotto stands on the pavement outside the White House in a barricade of placards proclaiming "renounce genocide" and "the light has gone out of Christianity."

Further along the street three feminists display a large purple banner demanding an amendment to the U.S. constitution to guaran-

tee equal rights for men and women.

Next to them, an emigre from Eastern Europe clutches a cardboard sign which appeals to Bulgaria's authorities to let her husband and two children join her in the United States.

Another protester issues calls for nuclear disarmament from his perch in a tree in nearby Lafayette Park.

Cranks and legitimate protesters alike stack placards against the White House railings and hand leaflets to passers-by. Their right to do so is enshrined in the U.S.

constitution, whose first amendment safeguards the rights of free speech and assembly.

Some demonstrators are articulate advocates of special causes, while others have more bizarre grievances.

For months Concepcion Picciotto, a stocky woman in her late 30s, wore a large wire basket above her head to deflect "secret rays" which she claimed the government was beaming on her.

She has protested outside the White House every day for 17 months, and it was there that she met Norman Mayer, the anti-

nuclear demonstrator killed by police last month after he threatened to blow up the Washington monument with dynamite.

After his death it was discovered that he had no explosives.

The largest of Miss Picciotto's six brightly coloured placards proclaims: "Norman Mayer: Be like him. Dare to struggle. Dare to win. Renounce genocide."

Another quotes what it calls Norman's ninth law of reality — "we are all at least 99 per cent stupid."

Standing by a small hut storing

hundreds of leaflets denouncing nuclear weapons, Miss Picciotto says she and fellow-protester William Thomas, whom she also met outside the White House, live off unsold food thrown out by Washington delicatessens and restaurants.

"Some people say, 'we're behind you 100 per cent, we like your signs,' but no one comes to join us," she laments.

Miss Picciotto accuses city police of harassing her as she exercises her constitutional rights, but other White House protesters

have few grudges.

Industrial trainer Pat Harley, 40, a campaigner for sexual equality who first demonstrated outside the White House in 1976, says: "The local gendarmerie are really quite pleasant. We have good relations with them."

She says some policemen like to collect badges which the demonstrators wear pinned to their clothing and others will accept cake from protesters staging nocturnal vigils.

Some tourists complain the demonstrators spoil the view of the president's mansion, but Miss

Harley counters: "I think we're part of what makes this country. This country is not about a spick-and-span White House."

Ludmila Gahrovskaya, a 45-year-old Russian-born emigre who says her Bulgarian husband and teenage children are being prevented from joining her in the United States, tells how some tourists offer to pray for her or write letters to President Reagan. She says her White House vigil has lasted two months and will continue "for ever more."

According to Art Spitzer of the

American civil liberties union, a major U.S. civil rights group, the White House pavement is as good a place as any for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to petition the government for redress of grievance.

"It serves a very useful purpose to have the tourists surprised. It shows the strength of the first amendment in the United States," he says.

One problem in Washington is that a person protesting peacefully for months before the White House may, like Norman Mayer, suddenly provoke a serious security alert.

A secret service spokesman asked if the White House demonstrators were kept under surveillance, replied blandly: "We're aware of them."

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Heaven can wait

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's current visit to Moscow comes at a crucial stage of Middle East history, and his talks with the new Soviet leadership are expected to be very important and lively. The focus will doubtless be the American role in the present search for an Arab-Israeli settlement.

The Soviets have unequivocally supported the Arabs' just cause and the Palestinians' legitimate struggle to restore their rights and regain their occupied territories. This our Soviet friends have done on principle but also, and quite understandably, in pursuit of their own interests as a nation and a super-power.

Regardless of the outcome of Mr. Arafat's discussions in Moscow, we believe that Soviet support for the Palestinian cause and friendship with the Arabs will continue to be strong and effective.

It is no secret, however, that Mr. Andropov's administration would be loath to

see an already strong American presence and influence in the Middle East even strengthened by Palestinian acceptance of President Reagan's Sept. 1 proposals for peace in the region. The Kremlin leadership therefore would not hesitate to warn the PLO chairman against American pressure or promises and their fruitlessness.

Mr. Arafat, on the other hand, would do well to listen, and listen he will. But he would do equally well to ask his hosts for the alternative—not necessarily to the Reagan plan but to checking Israel's aggression and expansion before it is too late and too costly.

History shows that the roots of the Palestine problem, and many other world problems, lie with big-power and superpower rivalry. As much as we would like to see full Soviet-American cooperation materialise to tackle the agony of nations, it simply would not do to forget about Palestine and Palestinians until that happens.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Steps the U.S. cannot retrace

The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and discussions of the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to Washington were aimed at regaining the usurped Arab land and liberating its Arab inhabitants.

With the same objectives in mind, King Hussein intends to tour a number of Arab states with whose leaders he is expected to discuss means of bolstering Arab ranks and thwarting Israeli attempts at exploiting the situation in the troubled region.

In his statements to representatives of Jordanian people on Monday, King Hussein made clear President Reagan's position toward the Middle East issue. He emphasised in his talks with the American administration that the Middle East issue is the first and most important one, preceding in priority even the issue of disarmament.

The United States, he added, recognises the Arab rights in Jerusalem and the other parts of the occupied Arab territories and, in this respect, the

American leaders have expressed their readiness and determination to restore to the Arabs their legitimate rights.

This crystal-clear interpretation of the American position does not allow any room for conflicting U.S. stands in the future because this position has been made public worldwide, and the world at large will bear witness to its truth. It is on this basis that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has been launched.

It is true that American credibility had suffered in the past due to Israeli policies and Israel might pursue its behaviour in the future to harm it again. But we have to remember now that the Reagan administration has pledged to defend its credibility this time and stand by its principles — something King Hussein revealed to his audience Monday.

Furthermore, we must not halt our endeavours by all means to regain our rights and liberate our lands, and people.

Al Dustour: Habib return bears significance

U.S. envoy Philip Habib's return to the Middle East seems to be closely connected with Israel's persistence in securing for itself political but illegal gains from its invasion of Lebanon. Habib's return at this particular time serves as an indicator that the Reagan administration has at last realised Israel's true intentions which are not only harmful to peace in the region and Lebanon's sovereignty but go beyond that to harm American credibility and prestige.

His Majesty King Hussein Monday reaffirmed that President Reagan's plan is not to be taken lightly. Preparation for the plan, coupled with intensive consultations and contacts among American officials, reflect America's genuine intention to shoulder its responsibilities toward establishing a

just Middle East peace. It is because of the big dimension the initiative has assumed that Israel began to act hysterically, not only in rejecting it but also in working hard to impede its implementation.

The biggest obstacle in the path of the Reagan plan is Israel's establishing settlements and in trying to extort a high price from Lebanon.

Habib's return to the region in these circumstances can also be explained as a serious start by Washington to put things in their right perspective. Washington has pledged that it will settle the Lebanese question, and if its endeavours prove to be successful, America's role in establishing a just and durable Middle East peace will gather momentum. Perhaps the coming days will reveal the truth about the whole situation.

RED & BLACK

To make the expected become reality

By Jawad Ahmad

It is very difficult for any writer to escape the reality of politics these days. Political events which we witness in the area nowadays are of historical magnitude and could not easily be chased off the mind.

Those who are busy in dealing and wheeling in the stock market cast a greedy eye on their prospective gains and a watchful eye on the political undercurrents. Consumers may think of postponing some of their pre-planned purchase preferring available cash.

Those with long term

investment ventures search for that happy balance between myopic fears and ambitious interests. Each and every citizen takes tens of economic decisions everyday, and most of these are to some degree affected by the political milieu.

In Jordan, we have grown more mature over-time in the sense that our economic decisions are not immediately coloured by our political expectations. This country, with all the colourful array and intricate deals of economic nature, can be seen in totality as a solid

project and not a mere stock exchange market.

If we were to be inhibited by fears of political fluctuations in the area we would not build any projects which lie within shooting distance from the borders with the occupied territories or Israel proper.

People also realise that fluctuations means ups and downs, and what we can do to minimise the ills in the "down" stage help elevate the "up" to a higher and more durable swing.

In essence, therefore, our

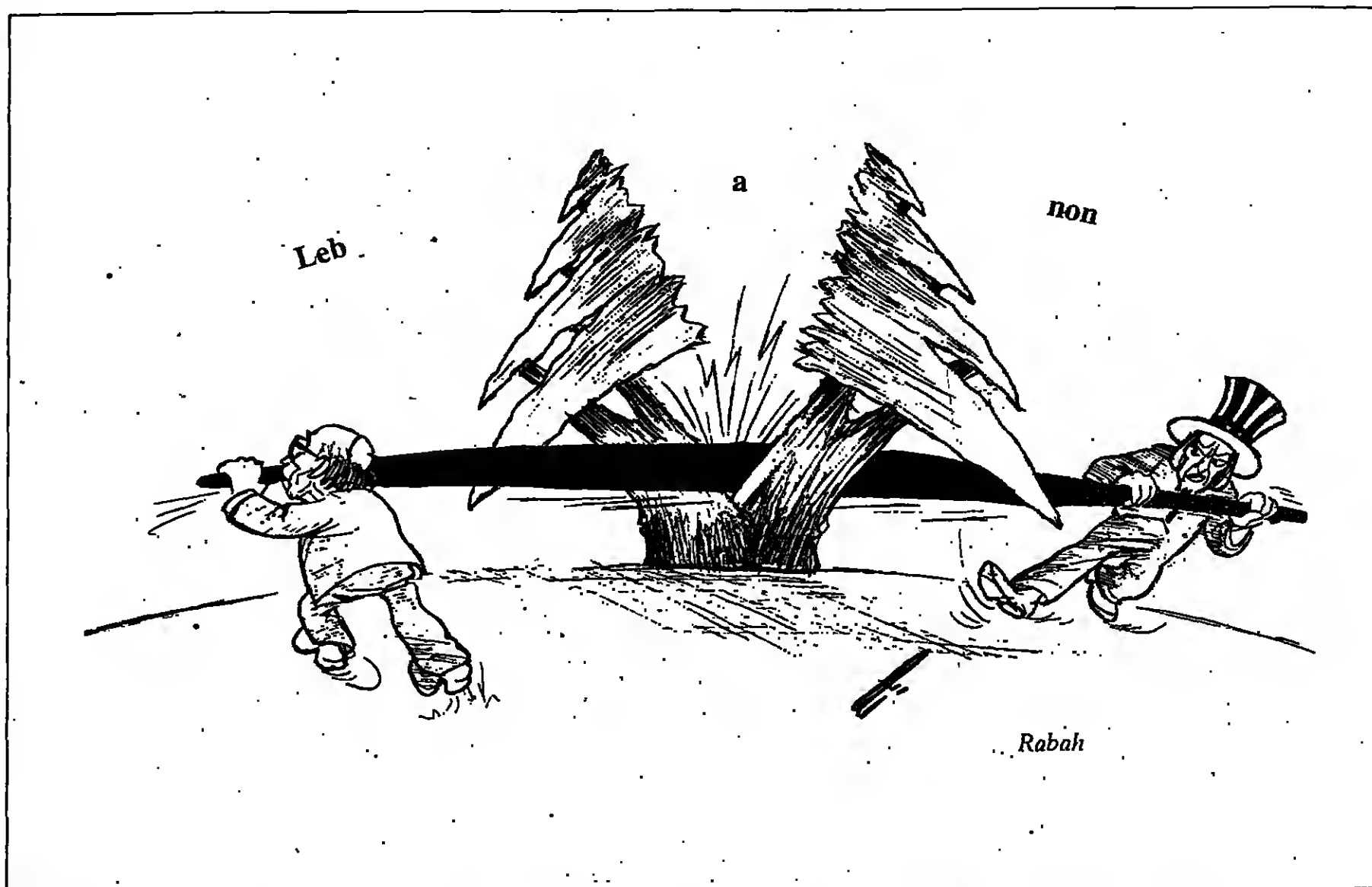
reaction to political expectations does not mature except after a certain lag—a spread of time that could be long enough to enable us to witness changes for the better.

Jordan is now in the centre of events. Since President Reagan's peace initiative, all eyes have turned towards Jordan. The course which Jordan is expected to take is a tight-rope. A successful outcome will mean a lot to the prosperity of the region including some benefits to those who should be

involved but are taking the fence.

No doubt, we in the breath-taking period will witness a great deal of political mobility. The outcome of this mobility will to a great deal depend on patience which, in turn, depends on economic steadfastness and internal cohesion. On both counts Jordan stands a very good chance.

If Jordanians enjoy a uniform vision of expectations, then the expected will become a reality.



An ancient nation without nationhood

By Desmond O' Connor

Once upon a time — a long, long time, according to contemporary archaeologists, at least ten thousand years ago — our world's first civilisation was born in the Land of Canaan. At a time when all Britain north of Watford was under ten feet of ice, and the peoples of Europe shivered in their cave dwellings, the inhabitants of an oasis at Jericho, in the Jordan Valley, looked hard at their ever-bubbling spring and decided to use it to irrigate their land. Tired of the endless hunt for food, they collected seedheads of the wild "canner" wheat and sowed them in the watered fields. In so doing they created what has been described as "man's greatest artefact".

Over the years they became the first farmers, adding barley, vegetables and fruit to their crops, herding the wild goats and gazelles, building houses of mud brick and, finally, encircling their settlement with stone walls and watch-towers. Other communities followed their example and Canaan prospered.

A corridor between Europe and Asia, the hills of Moab to the east and the Mediterranean to the west, the country was always a target for marauding nomadic tribes: the people needed their strong stone walls. While the first Pharaohs built their pyramids, the Hittites, Sumerians, Amorites and Philistines followed each other in the search for Canaan's "milk and honey"; but the natives absorbed them all, adopting, variously, their

languages, religions and cultures, and, eventually, from the Philistines, the forging of iron for weapons.

This craft came in useful when the first Hebrews rode over the hills from the desert, around 1,200 B.C. Owning nothing but the donkeys they sat on and the tents they slept in, the rampaging tribes of the Beni Ysrael roamed the uplands, killing, looting and cattle rustling. Without the iron swords and chariots of the Canaanites, they failed at first to subdue the walled cities. But Moses, their leader, gave them the spur they needed by discovering a new god, whose ferocious exhortations — so vividly chronicled in the Bible — excelled those of their sanguinary prophets. The inspired Hebrews — or Jews, as they now called themselves — soon conquered most of Canaan and in 1,000 B.C. they breached the walls of the city of Jerusalem. Their chief, David, declared it to be the capital of Judah, and crowned himself king.

However, the biblical glories of the twin Jewish kingdoms — for Judah was soon joined by Israel, to the north — lasted a pitifully short time: less than a century. And although under David's son, Solomon, the states became comparatively rich and powerful, all too soon the great empires of the Fertile Crescent — Babylon, Assyria and Persia — successfully plundered them, destroying King Solomon's temple and sending the Jews into exile. Never again, until this century, were they to exercise real sovereignty over the land.

Herod

Beneath the giant shadow of Alexander the Great, Canaan was content again, and many Jews were able to return; and when Romans replaced Greeks, Judea and Samaria saw a brief moment of glory under the Roman governor, an Arab who had entered history as "the Tyrant, Herod the Great". Tyrant he may have been, but he was most generous to the Jews and even rebuilt their temple more magnificently than before.

The birth of Christ, however, had traumatic consequences for the emergence of Christianity, concurrently with endemic strife between Jewish factions, led to civil war, and in the fighting even the Temple was ravaged. The Roman emperor lost patience with his intransigent subjects in Palestine. — as Canaan was now known — and the entire Jewish community was summarily exiled once more:

thus was the diaspora born.

While the sun slowly set on the empire of Byzantium, for the next five centuries the pages of history devoted to Palestine are, for once, strangely empty, and the people enjoyed long periods of tranquillity. Abruptly, and for the third time, a new religion erupted in the Middle East, this time in the fierce desert heat of Arabia. Within a few years of the death of Mohammed, the dedicated Beduin horsemen had carried the words of the "Messenger of God" into Asia, Africa and Europe and the Arab empire became the equal of old Roman one. Palestine was soon part of it, but the Arabs came as conquerors, not like the Hebrew, to colonise. Provided they acknowledged the sovereignty of the caliph, the Palestinians were left to their own devices. However, most of the population prudently became Muslims, and adopted the Arabic language.

The Arab caliphs — unlike the Israelite kings — permitted the practice of all religions, and Jewish and Christian holy places were strictly protected, while Jews and Christians could be — and indeed were — appointed to the highest posts in government. But when the French and English kings, for reasons somewhat less than pious, invaded the Holy Land, they set about the wholesale slaughter of all non-Christians, and bathed the land in blood for two hundred years. When Salah ed-Din finally evicted them from Palestine, the Crusaders fled in such panic that many of their women and children were left behind; so many, in fact, that in the slave market a woman could be bought for a single silver coin. Which explains, perhaps, why so many Palestinians are, even today, fair-skinned and blue-eyed.

Politics of victory

Until the dawn of this century, the country remained under Arab, and then Turkish, rule, although as the years went by the desire for a national identity showed itself in periodic bouts of insurrection. So that when the First World War brought not only the defeat of the Turks, but the entry into Jerusalem of a Christian co-queror in the shape of the British General Allenby, the Palestinians were overjoyed to receive assurances of full independence when the war was ended. What they did not know, of course, was that as a result of the Balfour Declaration the Zionist organisation had also obtained a promise: that the coun-

try would eventually encompass a Jewish national home. The utter incompatibility of these two solemn pledges did not concern the allies: the politics of victory being their only motive.

Yet even the creation of the British Mandate in Palestine might not have obstructed independence, in the long term: the British still had interests in Arabia and were not opposed to an autonomous — and friendly — Palestine. But just as the people began to feel the reality of their dream, the Second World War shattered it. Came the Jewish holocaust, world opinion was organised, and the Zionists triumphed. To free their consciences from the guilt of anti-semitism, the U.S. and Britain cravenly forgot their promises to the vast majority of the people of Palestine and arranged for them to be dispossessed to make room for the immigrant Jews from Europe. That in so doing they had inflicted a massive injustice upon a community also of semitic origin, was an irony too bitter for the veal politicians to be seen to recognise.

For the time being, until the conscience of the nations can sufficiently be stirred into action, the unique pilgrimage of the ancient Palestinian nation towards freedom and self-government — all ten thousand turbulent years of it — is halted once again, this time by the enforced expulsion of most of them and the military occupation and political oppression of the remainder.

It is, however, pertinent to add this postscript. As the Jewish historian, Moshe Menubin, wrote, "The modern Palestinians are the direct descendants of the Canaanites, Philistines, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders and Turks, and are without question the aboriginal inhabitants of the country." That any such ethnic group should be denied the right of self-government is demonstrably unjust; but that a people whose ancestors first dragged man from the draughty darkness of his neolithic caves into the warm sunshine of agricultural settlement and civilised life, who built the first houses, invented the linear alphabet, played host to three great world religions — the list is endless — should be precluded from achieving independence and statehood after one hundred centuries of continuous habitation of their homeland, is surely the most poignant crime against humanity.

— From Middle East International

Soviet Union begins new year with peace offensive

Caution, suspicion and faint hope

By Sidney Weiland

Reuter

LONDON — The Soviet Union began the new year with a widely predicted peace offensive, leaving the West to react with a mixture of caution, suspicion and faint hope. Soviet leader Yuri Andropov signalled interest in a summit meeting, while the Warsaw Pact said it was ready for radical arms cuts and offered the NATO alliance a non-aggression treaty.

The idea was at least 25 years old, but Western leaders responded guardedly, saying it merited study, privately, NATO officials said they saw it mainly as a propaganda ploy. In the United States, President Reagan said he favoured a summit "in principle," but wanted to be sure it would produce results. The chief American negotiator in U.S.-Soviet strategic arms talks, Edward Rowny, suggested there was a 50-50 chance of an agreement in 1983. Mr. Reagan agreed that Washington was "a little optimistic."

On both sides, statements were carefully measured, avoiding harsh polemics at the start of a year that is likely to be crucial in efforts to achieve a more stable arms balance. The Communist

gestures were viewed in NATO capitals as opening shots in a campaign to persuade Western public opinion to resist the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe.

This is the Kremlin's main European policy goal for 1983. The first of 572 missiles are due to be sited by December if there is no prior agreement between the U.S. and Moscow. Separate talks on European-based missiles resume in Geneva on January 27, alongside the strategic arms negotiations.

The Soviet campaign has forced Western governments on to the defensive, making them more cautious in their public reactions. Ordinarily, officials said, the Warsaw Pact call this week for a non-aggression treaty would have been rejected out of hand as meaningless without matching arms control arrangements. But governments were now anxious to avoid hasty reaction that could be exploited by anti-war campaigners who claim the West has a built-in reluctance to take Moscow's ideas seriously.

Officials recognise that NATO's case for new missiles will be credible only if the West can prove the U.S. is serious in trying to negotiate an arms deal with the Soviet Union.

Subtlety

A West German opinion sampling showed 55 per cent of those polled doubted that either of the super powers was serious. NATO policymakers say subtlety is needed in presenting the Western case and a readiness to respond seriously if the Kremlin offers proposals that seem outwardly attractive. "We are left with no choice except to say that anything coming from the other side deserves study," a senior official at NATO headquarters in Brussels said.

The caution followed West European criticism last month when the U.S., Britain and France rejected new proposals by Mr. Andropov before they had time to study all the details. The Soviet leader's offer to reduce medium-range missiles in Europe by two-thirds, to match nuclear weapons held by Britain and France, was a superficially logical idea that required a sophisticated answer, many officials said.

The West argues that the Andropov plan would bar all new U.S. medium-range missiles from Europe, while allowing the Soviet Union to keep up to 162 SS-20s targeted on West European cities, with about 100 more in reserve in the eastern U.S.S.R.

"Our problem is to get this across. That's why we are being a little careful in how we react," a British diplomat said. When Warsaw Pact leaders, at a summit in Prague, offered both sizeable arms reductions and a no-war pact, they noted that "millions of people on all continents" were demonstrating against war, and warned pointedly that time may be running out.

Western leaders expect that the Communist campaign to reach beyond governments in an attempt to sway public opinion will intensify as the time draws nearer for U.S. missile deployments. In new year statements, both sides adopted a low-key approach, designed largely to appeal to the grass roots.

Warm message

Mr. Andropov sent a warm new year's message to the American people, saying an arms compromise was possible. "We stand for improving Soviet-American relations...and we welcome everything that leads to this objective," the new Kremlin leader said. U.S. officials were careful not to rule out a Reagan-Andropov meeting, even though they said it depended on Soviet behaviour worldwide, and should offer hope for specific accords.

West Germany, facing elections on March 6 in which the projected American missiles seem certain to be a major issue, put the warmest gloss on Moscow's overtures to the West. Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said the Warsaw Pact had edged closer to some of NATO's own ideas on disarmament and that "East-West dialogue is in full swing."

He also said the West should be ready to accept second-best cuts in nuclear weapons if no agreement can be reached on a U.S. proposal to outlaw all European-based medium-range missiles. It was the first time a top Western leader had said publicly that a halfway compromise was worth considering if Mr. Reagan's "zero option" solution proved unattainable. Mr. Genscher said a Soviet offer to cut out "dozens" of SS-20s showed "undeniably substantial progress." The Soviet Union has now hinted it is ready to dismantle some missiles instead of merely moving them out of range of Western Europe.

U.S. officials fear others may also begin to waver in NATO's hitherto solid support of the zero option, and that Moscow will play on whatever tensions develop, especially in West Germany, where one-third of the new U.S. missiles are due to be based.

Islamic architecture today: Innovation or intimidation?

By Akram Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

It is hardly surprising that misconception, uncertainty and general confusion blur our impression of what contemporary Islamic architecture should really be. Should our glorious architectural past dominate the shaping of our future environment, or should it

confine itself to history books? The reason for such ambiguity is that architecture in general is rather hard to define, and its definition is more than often a reflection of one's approach to the subject.

Le Corbusier saw it as "...the masterly, correct and magnificent play of masses brought together in light" — a poetic definition with obvious emphasis on composition

of form. Mies Van der Rohe however, was more pragmatic in saying "...form is not the aim of our work but only the result." and that "...architecture's real field of activity is in the realm of significance." Certainly, two diverse yet valid approaches.

"Islamic architecture" however, is a term that many cautious critics shy away from, mainly due to its historical connotations.

Some refer to it as "architecture for Muslim communities," thus dressing it with a milder social flavour. Others deny that there should even be a unified style, but a regional manner which stems from a need to adapt one's architecture to one's immediate physical environment and climatic conditions.

It may be worth realising, at this point, that contemporary architecture in most of the Muslim world rarely conforms to any of the above definitions and conceptions. It is an architecture barely significant and in some

cases highly inappropriate. Yet in the absence of this positive interest towards the built environment, we seem to be experiencing a growing interest in developing our own architectural heritage; partly in search of an architectural identity more appropriate to the new demands inflicted upon us by progress, and partly as a reaction against western influences.

But until this interest develops into awareness, we shall continue to be faced with the obvious lack of differentiation between conservation and duplication. Fine old buildings and quarters all over the Muslim world are casually left to deteriorate while frenetic attempts are made at recreating the more accessible elements of Islamic architecture: a point clearly emphasised by His Majesty King Hussein "...the plans for the present are to seek innovation in a world beset by an expedient tendency to imitate blindly."

Since the impact of rapid growth has been more dramatically felt by the city of Amman than anywhere else in Jordan, it is worth trying to determine whether Amman ever had a unified architectural character.

During the 1920's and 30's the character of Amman was being developed with an unquestionably East Mediterranean flavour, enhanced by the employment of local limestone and craftsmen from Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

By the early 1940's Amman had already, very successfully, absorbed the "International Style" (which had started in Europe in the 1920's) as an integral part of its natural evolution. As a result, the face of the city rapidly moved away from the 19th century image associated with the Salt houses, and emerged with its own new vernacular.

spirit which prevailed throughout the 1940's and 50's. Examples of such buildings may be seen in the older parts of Jabal Amman, -Luwaihdah and -Husseini.

By the early 60's, under the effects of rapid growth, the architecture of Amman had started to move away from its newly established vernacular into looser and more varied directions. Yet it was not until the mid 70's that the character of the city became seriously threatened.

At the opening of the seminar on Architectural transformations in the Islamic world, held in Amman in May 1980, His Majesty King Hussein summed up the situation in the following statement: "Oil has provided many jobs for our people, whose remittances in the 1970's were heavily invested in the purchase of real estate. We are self-critical enough to realise that in the last two decades, such developments have forced us to witness the harmful impact of unguided construction."

As a result, the architectural language of the more suburban parts of the city is now divided into a variety of unjustifiable modes and meanings. A street often loses its homogeneity due to the co-existence of a diversity of styles which are not only incongruous to one another, but also incorporate elements which are inconsistent with their own individual character.

Yet amidst this present flare of expressionism and symbolism,

Randa Habib's CORNER

Snowed under?

We live in a country equipped for summer. This remark has become a joke often heard in Amman, but unfortunately there is some truth. If it snows everything stops in Amman. People hibernate, telephones go dead and electric cables are cut.

All over the world blizzards cause damage of varying seriousness, and we are no exception. But let's be honest — it is not normal that everytime it snows we should pray that our electricity isn't cut and that our telephone continues to operate.

Snow falls in Amman every year; it does not come as a surprise factor. Why can't we equip ourselves better to deal with it? Is there really a good reason why, when it snows, the whole country is paralysed, all the schools are closed and people stay at home? Suppose that, due to the global climatic changes that are supposed to be taking place, it starts to snow in Amman for three to four weeks. What would we do?

It is high time that we become equipped for winter and that we stop being only a "summer country".

I am reminded of the story of the Jordanian student who went to a university in the Soviet Union. As a snow storm which is a common event there had overwhelmed the city, his student like any good Jordanian decides to stay in his room.

One day passes...two...three... After a week his friends, alarmed, decide to inquire about him and about the reasons for his absence.

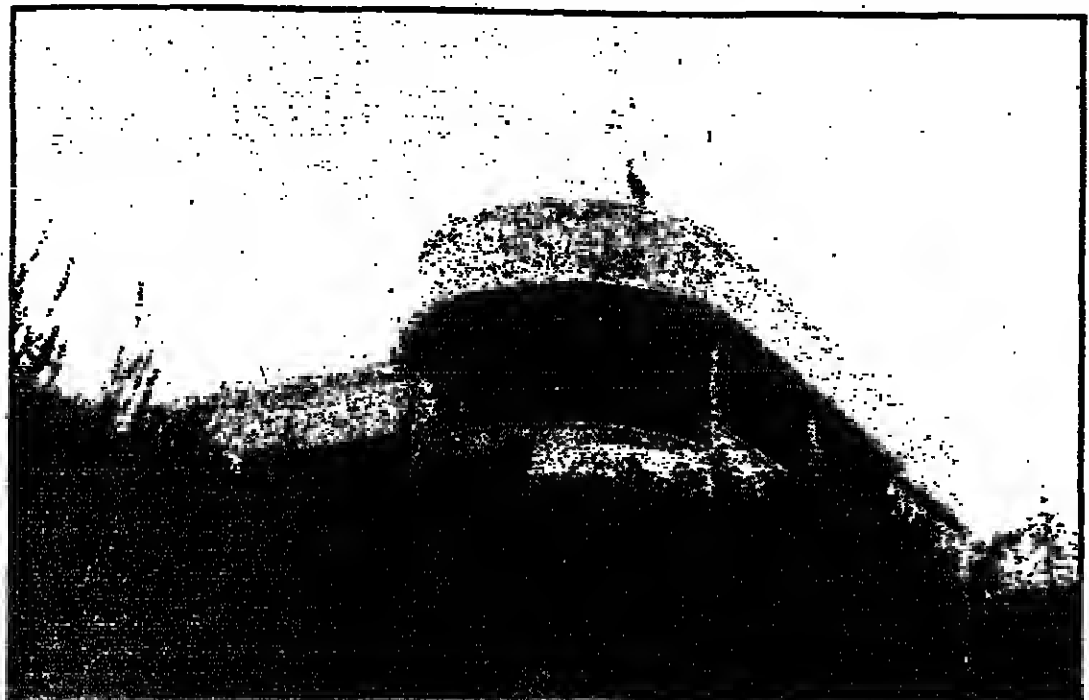
And he answers very innocently: "But it is snowing!"

and through the work of a handful of active architects, Amman is witnessing various commendable attempts at establishing a new architectural language. Some of these architects derive their inspiration from 19th century Arab architecture; others start from scratch seeking appropriate new forms.

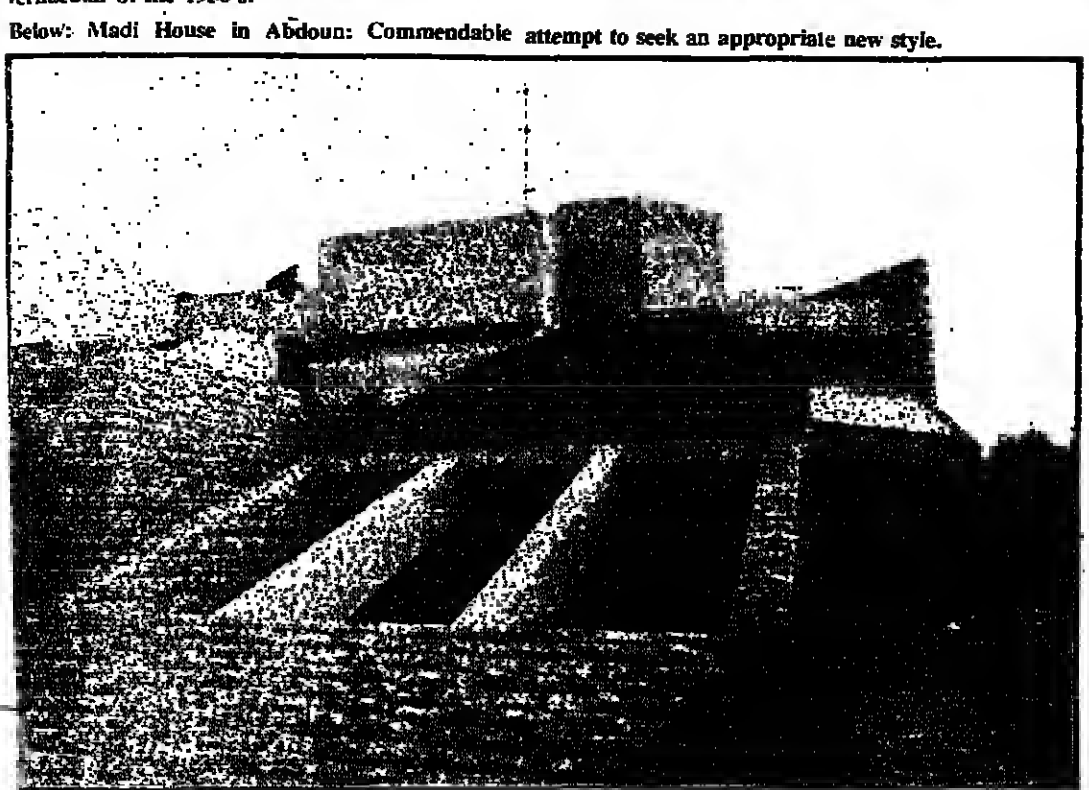
In the meantime, the architectural spirit that was attained in the 1940's and 50's is in a state of

unconsciousness and no apparent efforts are being made at resurrecting it.

The author, formerly head of the Royal Scientific Society's architectural section, is a practising architect and a member of the working committee of the Royal Commission on Architectural Heritage.



Above: Mango House on J. Amman: Successful absorption of "international style" into Amman vernacular of the 1950's.



Below: Madi House in Abdoun: Commendable attempt to seek an appropriate new style.



New house on Jabal Amman shows indiscriminate use of different and incongruous building styles.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
9:45: Koran
10:00: Cartoon
10:10: The Munch Bunch
10:20: Must Anderson
10:30: Big Blue Marble
10:40: Local Programme
10:50: News in Arabic
11:00: Arabic Series
11:10: News in Arabic
11:20: News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
6:00: French Programme
7:00: News in French
7:30: News in Hebrew
8:30: Private Benjamin
9:10: Eight is Enough
10:00: News in English
10:15: Movie of the Week: The Christian Loricore Store

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM
a party on 95.60 KHz SW

10:00: Morning Show
10:30: News Summary
11:00: News Bulletin
11:30: News Summary
12:00: Pop Session
12:30: News Summary
13:00: Pop Session
13:30: News Bulletin
14:00: News Summary
14:30: Pop Session
15:00: News Bulletin
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16:00: Pop Session
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22:00: Pop Session
22:30: News Bulletin
23:00: News Summary
23:30: Pop Session
24:00: News Bulletin

IC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

Newsdesk 6:30 Classical Record
Financial News 8:55 Reflections
World News 24 Hours News
142 07:30 People's Choice 07:45

FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
9:45: Koran
10:00: Children's Programme
10:10: Popeye
10:20: Religious Programme
10:30: The Muppet Show
10:40: The World We Live In
10:50: Emergency
11:00: The Waltons
11:10: Science and Life
11:20: Western Theatre
11:30: Feature Film
11:40: Religious Programme
11:50: News in Arabic

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10:00: Morning Show
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12:30: News Summary
13:00: Pop Session
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22:00: Pop Session
22:30: News Bulletin
23:00: News Summary
23:30: Pop Session
24:00: News Bulletin

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Landscapes Beyond the Periphery, at the American Centre.
* Exhibition of Saudi Arabian Archaeology, at the French Cultural Centre. Ends Thursday.

FILM

* The Red Circle, starring Alain Delon, at the French Cultural Centre Friday 7:30 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qafza (Cliffside Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Mutasabb, Jabal Luwaidah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports Club. Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 564240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

VOICE OF AMERICA

05:00: Daybreak 06:00: The Breakfast Show 17:00: News Roundup 17:30: VOA Magazine Show: Americana, science, culture, letters 18:00: Special English News 18:10: Special English Science & Technology Report 18:15: Feature: The Making of a Nation (Friday: The Living Earth) 18:30: Now Music USA (Friday: Country Music USA) 19:00: News Roundup 19:30: Outline 20:00: Special English News 20:10: Science and Technology Report 20:15: Feature 20:30: Music USA 21:00: News Roundup 21:30: VOA Magazine Show 22:00: Special English News 22:10: Science and Technology Report 22:15: Music USA: Jazz 23:00: VOA World Report

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CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre Tel. 41520
British Council 36147-R
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44003
Spanish Cultural Centre 23409
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665193
Hussain Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355

every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwaidah, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71721.
St. Ann International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeislan, 663249.

Prayer Times
05:14 Fajr
06:37 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:45 Ohud
14:24 'Asr
16:54 Maghreb
18:16 Isha

06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 English Baroque Music 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:09 Programme Cancelled 08:30 News 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 News Summary 09:39 News Summary 09:45 News Summary 10:00 News Summary 10:09 News Summary 10:15 News Summary 10:20 News Summary 10:25 News Summary 10:30 News Summary 10:35 News Summary 10:40 News Summary 10:45 News Summary 10:50 News Summary 10:55 News Summary 11:00 News Summary 11:05 News Summary 11:10 News Summary 11:15 News Summary 11:20 News Summary 11:25 News Summary 11:30 News Summary 11:35 News Summary 11:40 News Summary 11:45 News Summary 11:50 News Summary 11:55 News Summary 12:00 News Summary 12:05 News Summary 12:10 News Summary 12:15 News Summary 12:20 News Summary 12:25 News Summary 12:30 News Summary 12:35 News Summary 12:40 News Summary 12:45 News Summary 12:50 News Summary 12:55 News Summary 13:00 News Summary 13:05 News Summary 13:10 News Summary 13:15 News Summary 13:20 News Summary 13:25 News Summary 13:30 News Summary 13:35 News Summary 13:40 News Summary 13:45 News Summary 13:50 News Summary 13:55 News Summary 14:00 News Summary 14:05 News Summary 14:10 News Summary 14:15 News Summary 14:20 News Summary 14:25 News Summary 14:30 News Summary 14:35 News Summary 14:40 News Summary 14:45 News Summary 14:50 News Summary 14:55 News Summary 15:00 News Summary 15:05 News Summary 15:10 News Summary 15:15 News Summary 15:20 News Summary 15:25 News Summary 15:30 News Summary 15:35 News Summary 15:40 News Summary 15:45 News Summary 15:50 News Summary 15:55 News Summary 16:00 News Summary 16:05 News Summary 16:10 News Summary 16:15 News Summary 16:20 News Summary 16:25 News Summary 16:30 News Summary 16:35 News Summary 16:40 News Summary 16:45 News Summary 16:50 News Summary 16:55 News Summary 17:00 News Summary 17:05 News Summary 17:10 News Summary 17:15 News Summary 17:20 News Summary 17:25 News Summary 17:30 News Summary 17:35 News Summary 17:40 News Summary 17:45 News Summary 17:50 News Summary 17:55 News Summary 18:00 News Summary 18:05 News Summary 18:10 News Summary 18:15 News Summary 18:20 News Summary 18:25 News Summary 18:30 News Summary 18:35 News Summary 18:40 News Summary 18:45 News Summary 18:50 News Summary 18:55 News Summary 19:00 News Summary 19:05 News Summary 19:10 News Summary 19:15 News Summary 19:20 News Summary 19:25 News Summary 19:30 News Summary 19:35 News Summary 19:40 News Summary 19:45 News Summary 19:50 News Summary 19:55 News Summary 20:00 News Summary 20:05 News Summary 20:10 News Summary 20:15 News Summary 20:20 News Summary 20:25 News Summary 20:30 News Summary 20:35 News Summary 20:40 News Summary 20:45 News Summary 20:50 News Summary 20:55 News Summary 21:00 News Summary 21:05 News Summary 21:10 News Summary 21:15 News Summary 21:20 News Summary 21:25 News Summary 21:30 News Summary 21:35 News Summary 21:40 News Summary 21:45 News Summary 21:50 News Summary 21:55 News Summary 22:00 News Summary 22:05 News Summary 22:10 News Summary 22:15 News Summary 22:20 News Summary 22:25 News Summary 22:30 News Summary 22:35 News Summary 22:40 News Summary 22:45 News Summary 22:50 News Summary 22:55 News Summary 23:00 News Summary 23:05 News Summary 23:10 News Summary 23:15 News Summary 23:20 News Summary 23:25 News Summary 23:30 News Summary 23:35 News Summary 23:40 News Summary 23:45 News Summary 23:50 News Summary 23:55 News Summary 24:00 News Summary

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SPORTS

SACU confirms West Indians cricket tour

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African Cricket Union (SACU) Wednesday confirmed that a team of West Indian players is on its way to South Africa.

SACU President Joe Pamensky issued a statement to the South African Press Association (SAPA) confirming the players were coming to South Africa.

"In the past two days there have

been a number of reports emanating from the West Indies and elsewhere about players on their way to South Africa," Mr. Pamensky said.

"The SACU is naturally delighted that this is the case and therefore confirms that a number of players are indeed on their way here."

"However, it must be pointed

out that, until all the players have reached our country, a tour does not in fact exist."

Mr. Pamensky did not give any details of the players on their way to South Africa but reports from the West Indies and London said the tourists included current West Indian cricketers Desmond Haynes, Colin Croft, Sylvester Clarke and Malcolm Marshall.

He said it was SACU policy not to give any details about the tour until all the players had arrived here.

"The policy of the SACU is not to confirm or deny plans for cricket tours until the players concerned are safely in South Africa," Mr. Pamensky said.

He said the "incredible international response" to overseas reports made it clear that enemies of South African sport wanted to prevent the tour from taking place.

The republic has been banned from international cricket since 1970 because of its apartheid racial segregation policies.

Billy Martin to manage New York Yankees

NEW YORK (R) — Billy Martin, twice hired and twice fired by owner George Steinbrenner of the American Baseball League's New York Yankees, was hired Tuesday to manage the club for the third time.

The 54-year-old Martin replaces Clyde King, who early last season replaced Bob Lemon — also twice hired and twice fired by the Yankees.

Steinbrenner, re-introducing Martin at a press conference at Yankee stadium, said the combative former Yankee second baseman had been signed to a "multi-year" contract, but declined to give the length of the pact.

Martin was fired by the Oakland A's at the end of last season after managing the club for three years. During his first year at Oakland he led the club, who had finished last in the American League Western Division in 1979, to a second-place finish. He then guided the A's into the American League playoffs in 1981 but the club faltered badly last season.

The volatile and controversial Steinbrenner first hired Martin midway through the 1975 season.

The Yankees won the American League pennant the following two seasons, along with the World Series in 1977. But Martin was fired during the 1978 season after, in referring to Steinbrenner and Reggie Jackson, he said: "One's convicted and the other's born liar."

Martin was rehired by Steinbrenner halfway through the 1979 season but was dismissed again after he was alleged to have assaulted a marshallman salesman outside a bar the following winter.

Before signing with the Yankees in 1975, Martin managed the Minnesota Twins, the Detroit Tigers and the Texas Rangers.

Karak schools conduct cross-country race

KARAK (Petra) — A cross-country race for local preparatory and secondary schools took place in Karak Wednesday. Coming first in the 10-kilometre competition was Al Rabbab agricultural school and Al Manshieh school representing the secondary and preparatory schools respectively.

At the end of the competition in which 347 students took part the director of education in Karak Governorate distributed trophies to the competitors and medals to the winners. A total of 40 schools took part in the competition which was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Education.

Harry Wragg retires from horseracing

LONDON (R) — Harry Wragg, who became a legend in horseracing as both jockey and trainer, is to retire after over 60 years in the sport, his son and assistant trainer, Geoffrey, said Wednesday.

Wragg, 80, rode from 1921 to 1946, winning 13 English classics including three Epsom Derbys and earning the nickname of the "bead waiter" for his skill in

snatching last second victories. He turned to training in 1947, grooming the winners in six English and seven Irish classics in a 35-year career. His best season was his last when 20 of his horses won 30 races worth over £250,000 (\$390,000).

Wragg, who is on holiday in California, will be succeeded at his Newmarket, England, stables by his son.

Canada not worried about World Cup finals facilities

MONTREAL (R) — Canada's hopes of hosting the 1986 World Soccer Cup finals need not be dashed because it does not have enough big capacity stadiums, Georges Schwartz, vice-president of the Canadian Soccer Association, said Wednesday.

He said the International Football Federation (FIFA) stipulation that the host country must have at least 12 stadiums of 40,000 capacity and one of 80,000 is negotiable, depending on possible gate receipts.

Schwartz said a crowd of 70,000 at Montreal's Olympic stadium would bring more revenue than a crowd of 200,000 in the biggest stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Now that Colombia has withdrawn Canada is competing with Mexico, the United States and Brazil to host the finals. Canada has proposed using nine stadiums.

French racehorse trainer Mathet dies

PARIS (R) — French racehorse trainer Francois Mathet, who notched up four Arc de Triomphe winners in a 39-year career, died Tuesday from a heart attack, his family said Wednesday.

Mathet, who also won the prestigious Grand Prix de Paris six times, was 74.

His last major victory was last year's Arc. Europe's richest horse race, with the three-year-old Filly Akiyda, owned by the Aga Khan and ridden by lead French jockey Yves Saint Martin.

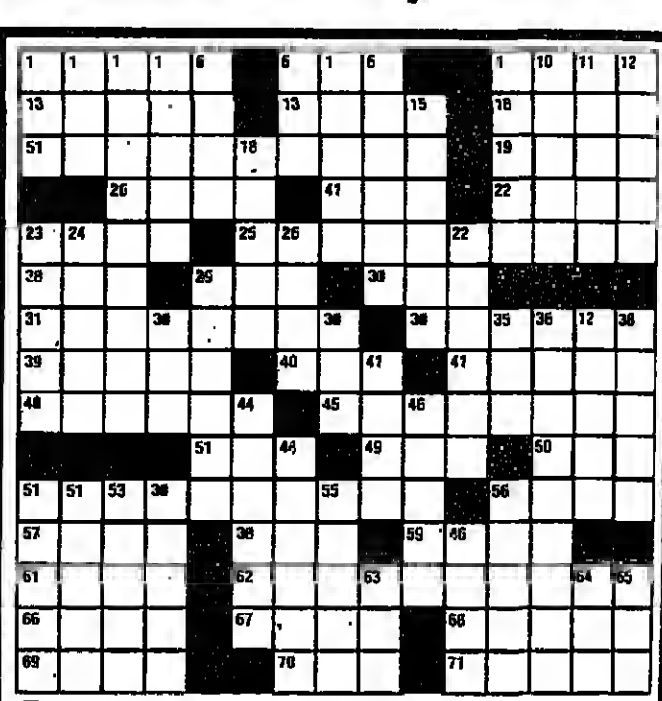
THE Daily Crossword By Nancy S. Ross

ACROSS	25 Binocular	50 According	15 Bronze
1 Bicycle	26 No longer	51 Wagner	18 English
2 Append	27 Metabolic	52 Nosegay	19 Philosopher
3 FDR's pet	28 for short	53 Tatter's	23 Musical
13 Spum	30 Chosen Fr.	54 product	24 Hie
14 Judge	31 Oil men	55 — in Is	25 Undiluted
16 Land of	32 Afternoon	56 Farm part	27 Segovia's
17 The Met,	33 Gertrude	57 Western	29 Group of
for one	34 Stein words	58 Whitelaw	brilliant
19 Clarinet	35 Long, long	59 Orphen	people
or oboe	36 time	60 Heraldic	32 Hallucino-
20 Nevada	37 Military	61 Stone of	gen
tourist	38 unit	62 many hues	33 Help!
21 Spanish	39 Business	63 Whirlpool	35 Slip
hero	40 agent	64 "— Sloop"	36 Housewife's
22 Sister	41 Sort	65 to Conquer	addiction
of 23A	42 — king	66 "Among thy	37 Lugs
23 Prince,	43 Timetable	67 green —"	38 Mimry
for short			41 Approach

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN	1 Sign on	31 Vagabond	48 Hanger
1 Sign on	2 Vagabond	32 Manner of	49 adjuncts
2 Vagabond	3 Manner of	33 People of	51 Dazzle
3 Manner of	4 People of	34 New Mexico	52 Hastened
4 People of	5 Dash	35 Vanus'	53 Caustic
5 Dash	6 Fuss	36 neighbor	54 Wanting
6 Fuss	7 Low card	37 Hamelin	55 Vanus'
7 Low card	8 Yarn	38 son-in-law	56 Hamelin
8 Yarn	9 Savage	39 Notice	57 LBJ's
9 Savage	10 Game site	40 Whiskey	58 Kalline and
10 Game site	11 Legal word	41 Aconcagua's	Smith
11 Legal word	12 Aconcagua's		

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- 1 Kato truck crane model NK 450. 1977
- 1 Koering bantam 30 T truck crane — model T 788. 1973

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- 1 Case 580C with front shovel. 1979

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by
The Rev. Ramban Bennyamin Joseph

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ECONOMY

U.S. to fight vigorously unfair trade practices

DALLAS (R) — President Reagan has served notice that his administration plans to fight vigorously what it sees as unfair agricultural trade practices by Japan and the European Community, and he pledged not to give in to protectionism.

In a speech Tuesday to 5,000 farmers, he also announced moves to cut surplus in an effort to help the depressed farm economy.

Mr. Reagan said the United States would provide \$250 million in direct credit to finance as much as \$1 billion in agricultural export sales to developing countries.

This would help counter massive European Community farm subsidies and could lead to their eventual elimination, he said.

The announcement underscored the tough U.S. trade position as talks began in Washington with European Community officials on disputes threatening to erupt into a trade war.

Mr. Reagan pledged to raise objections to Japan's strict quotas on imported beef and citrus fruit during next week's Washington visit by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

"We will not give in to protectionist measures, but at the same time, we aren't going to let ourselves be ploughed under," Mr. Reagan declared.

"Our competitors are raiding

the hen house," he said. In another move to reverse the slide in agricultural exports, Mr. Reagan signed into law a so-called "contract sanctity" provision protecting against future trade embargoes. It guarantees shipments for nine months except in a declared national emergency or during war.

Mr. Reagan followed the advice of his farm, trade and political advisers in signing the measure, brushing aside objections by foreign-policy aides concerned that it would limit the president's options.

Mr. Robert Delano, president of the largest U.S. farm group, the conservative American Farm Bureau Federation, told reporters the provision would increase agricultural exports and reassure the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that the United States would be a reliable supplier.

Mr. Reagan also offered farmers a "crop swap" under which they receive government-owned surplus grain in return for leaving up to half of their acreage idle this year.

The programme seeks to solve some of the severe problems facing U.S. farmers as a result of successive bumper harvests, mounting stockpiles, depressed world demand and the lowest profits since 1933.

Reagan plans to cut defence spending

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, bowing to strong pressure to reduce America's soaring budget deficit, says he plans to cut spending on defence in 1984 by \$1.3 billion.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger announced Tuesday that he would recommend this reduction to the White House. Mr. Reagan quickly told reporters he would pass the recommendation to Congress in his budget proposal after this month.

But the president stressed that a reduction in defence spending to about \$239 billion in the 1984 fiscal year would "not interfere with the production of new weapons systems."

The announcement was made by Mr. Weinberger as White House pressure mounted on him to reduce arms spending in the

face of a projected federal budget deficit of about \$200 billion in the financial year which begins next Oct. 1.

The defence secretary told a news conference that a little less than half of the reduction would result from changes in the Pentagon's forecasts for both inflation and fuel prices.

Mr. Reagan said the reduction represented only a slowdown in defence spending and would help him persuade Congress to approve an overall budget that was fair and also included further cuts in domestic spending.

Mr. Weinberger said his cuts involved scaling back servicemen's proposed pay increases, deferring some domestic military construction and reducing military training.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mugabe criticises 'tied aid'

HARARE (OPECNA) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe spoke Tuesday of an increasing tendency by developed countries to grant aid with political strings attached. Opening a five-day African-American conference, the prime minister said such a practice was aimed at reducing recipients to "neo-colonies and puppets of donor countries."

Japanese farmers protest

TOKYO (R) — Thousands of Japanese farmers marched past the heavily-guarded U.S. embassy protesting Wednesday against Washington's efforts to persuade Japan to import more American agricultural products.

Iran gives Japan final notice

TOKYO (R) — Iran has given Japan until Wednesday to decide whether to resume work on a multi-billion-dollar joint project to build a petrochemical complex in south Iran, abandoned over two years ago due to the Gulf war.

Iraq to strengthen ties with India

NEW DELHI (R) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasem Ahmad Taqi said here Wednesday that his government wanted to expand ties with India. India had successfully completed a number of construction projects in Iraq and "there are possibilities of enlarging co-operation in this field," he told reporters on arrival here for a meeting of the Indo-Iraq joint commission. Iraq is a traditional supplier of oil to India, which will import 3.5 million tonnes of crude from Baghdad in 1983.

Tunisian-Kuwaiti ties said 'ideal'

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — Tunisian Finance Minister Mansour Moalla Sunday described as "ideal" the co-operation between his country and Kuwait in a number of joint industrial and financial ventures. Mr. Moalla, who was here to discuss current projects, including phosphate production and investment in agriculture and real estate, together with the possibility of launching further joint ventures.

U.S. banks cut prime rate

NEW YORK (R) — Several major U.S. banks Tuesday reduced their key prime lending rate by a half percentage point to 11 per cent, the lowest level in more than two years. Morgan Guaranty was the first to fall into line with Chase Manhattan which began the latest round on Dec. 28. Other banks, including Bank of America, the nation's largest, then followed.

Italy gives relief aid to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Italy has given Ethiopia 10,000 tonnes of rice worth \$8 million to help relieve drought-affected areas of the country. The grain is being unloaded at Ethiopia's Red Sea port of Massawa, according to the deputy commissioner for relief, Major Tesfaye Berhanu.

Afghanistan denies reserves crisis

NEW DELHI (R) — Afghanistan, seeking to counter Western reports that it was facing a foreign exchange crisis, has said it has enough foreign currency reserves to cover one year's imports. Western diplomatic sources here said Wednesday. They said Afghanistan's central bank in an official statement had denied there was a foreign exchange problem and that the country had been buying hard currency from what it called "other sources."

British pound regains strength

LONDON (R) — The chairman of Britain's ruling Conservative Party, in a statement intended to halt pressure on sterling, said Wednesday the government had no plans to call an early general election.

Party Chairman Cecil Parkinson, the most authoritative government voice in the absence of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher now on a tour of the Falkland Islands, declared: "The government has no plans for an early election."

Mr. Parkinson, a member of Mrs. Thatcher's cabinet and one of her closest advisers, spoke in a radio interview as the British currency strengthened in early dealing against European currencies and the Japanese yen.

At the same time, Midland Bank, one of Britain's four major commercial banks, fell into line with its competitors which Tuesday raised their interest rates to 11 per cent.

Mr. Parkinson said he did not expect the prime minister to return from the Falklands and

declare she was going to hold an election. Mr. Parkinson said the British economy was strong and there was no need for the government to call an election.

"Look at the position of this country's economy. Look at the fact that our spending plans are now settled for the following year. Our spending is firmly under control. Our borrowing is under control. Inflation is coming down. Wage settlements are being made at a lower level," Mr. Parkinson said.

"We have industrial peace. Very few strikes. We have a far better balance of payments on current account than almost any other country. Our economy is basically sound," he continued.

Government were producing the right results, he stressed, adding: "We intend to stick to them."

Britain, as a politically secure country, as a secure place for investors to keep their money, Mr. Parkinson said.

He acknowledged problems in

the level of industrial output but said these were problems Britain shared with many other countries.

Meanwhile, leading Social Democratic Party politician Mr. William Rodgers blamed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for causing the latest run on the pound. He accused her of starting her election campaign last weekend with a trip to the Falkland Islands, over which Britain and Argentina fought last year.

Other reasons for sterling's fall appeared to be current uncertainty over oil prices, which affects Britain as a major oil producer, and a belief that such currencies as the mark and the Japanese yen would strengthen.

The fall in sterling, while welcomed by exporters as it makes their goods cheaper overseas, was a major blow to Mrs. Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party. Her government had been looking to lower interest rates to revive the economy and help cut inflation by reducing the cost of borrowing.

Early London dealings Wednesday showed the British unit extending its late recovery Tuesday which followed the one percentage point increase in interest rates of Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds banks.

Sterling was indicated at an early \$1.5755 in line with the overnight close in New York, before rising to \$1.5835.

But the lower opening figure was nearly one cent below \$1.5850 here Tuesday, largely an expression of the strength of the dollar which had advanced overnight in the United States.

In Frankfurt, dealers said sterling slipped back in moderate early trading Wednesday, while the dollar held steady at higher levels.

Sterling eased to 3.511 marks from the opening 3.728 marks. Opening levels were higher than the close in New York Tuesday night, but dealers said sterling soon slipped as operators saw its sharp rise as overdone.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities ended lower in reaction to Tuesday's base rate rises and continued concern over sterling, but moved above the lows following reports that an early U.K. general election is unlikely, dealers said.

In moderate trading, leading industrials were mostly easier with Beecham off 5p at 333, Grand 51d down 4p at 320 and Thorn 10p lower at 420. The F.T. index at 1500 Wednesday was down 5.8 at 5985.

Government bonds ended as much as two points lower, although above the day's lows, after initial markups. Trading was nervous and thin, with some operators concerned over possible further interest rate rises.

Stores continued a slide with Boots down 4p at 225, "G" off 15p at 34, and Marks & Spencer 4p at 107. Banks were as much as 7p firmer following base rate rises while in mixed oils. B.P. rose 2p to 54 and Shell gained 4p at 442.

Builders were particularly weak on concern over mortgage rates. Barrat down 2p at 40, Price Circle fell 10p at 425 and Tarmac was off 2p at 410.

Anderson Strathclyde was up 7p at 160 after the high court gave it leave to challenge the trade minister's decision on the Charter Consolidated bid. Charter Consolidated was unchanged on balance at 253.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5782 92	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2215 18	Canadian dollars
	2.3485 45	West German marks
	2.5905 15	Dutch guilders
	1.9500 15	Swiss francs
	46.13 18	Belgian francs
	6.6570 6600	French francs
	134.25 75	Italian lire
	229.45 60	Japanese yen
	7.3410 40	Swedish crowns
	6.8900 70	Norwegian crowns
	8.2770 2600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	479.00-480.00	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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"Uncle Stanley, if I'm made of sugar and spice and everything nice, how come I'm not crawling with ants?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROUP ICING NIBBLE TALLOW

Answer: Can help to avoid friction—LUBRICATION

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 13, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day to make an advancement in career activities, but be sure not to force your will on others. You can easily extend your ideas beyond present boundaries now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Extend your interests so you can gain more profits in the future. Be less demanding of family members. Express happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take the right steps to improve your financial position. A new project needs more study before going ahead with it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Schedule your activities wisely so you get maximum use of your time. Be sure to use extreme caution in motion today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can now understand how to improve your financial position so don't waste valuable time.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Go after your finest personal aims and you can easily gain them. Sidestep a foe who could spoil your happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your ambitions well now and don't confide in others. Show more affection for mate. Many benefits can come now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go after personal aims with more enthusiasm and effort and you can easily gain them. Be alert at all times today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are now able to get the backing you need from a higher-up. Be sure to keep promises you've made to friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can make a good impression on others by showing you are honest and decent. Relax at home tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be more objective in dealing with others where business matters are concerned or you could jeopardize your security.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be sure to keep the promises made to family members. Come to a better accord with associates. Think constructively.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Go after your aims in a positive manner and get excellent results. Contact loyal friends who can be helpful to you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be capable of comprehending a great deal of knowledge, so give the finest education you can afford and there can be much success. Don't neglect religious tenets that are important to a good way of life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 14, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't allow yourself the luxury of criticizing others today or tonight, or you could lose out quickly where it means the most to you. Strive for success and happiness.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure to finish regular routines before thinking about recreation. Objectivity helps solve a situation that arises.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A situation at work could be troublesome, but be objective and you can solve it. Spend your money wisely today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A new project needs more study before going ahead with it. Take no risks with your reputation at this time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't argue with an associate and then all will be fine in the future. Be more reassuring to loved one.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Don't jeopardize your financial standing by investing too heavily. Avoid one of the opposite sex who could give you trouble.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take extra time to solve any problems you may have now and tomorrow you can carry through in a positive fashion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid taking any forceful action because you are annoyed, but profit through fine opportunities around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may find it difficult to obtain the data you need, but don't let it frustrate you. It will soon be forthcoming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have fine plans for advancing in career activities, but don't be too hasty in putting them in operation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try not to irk anyone in high position now, or you could regret it later. The evening can be a most happy one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may think of seeking greener pastures now, but this could be a mistake. Use extreme caution in motion.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make long-range plans to have more abundance in the days ahead. You are able to gain a personal aim at this time.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can see through most troublesome situations and know how best to handle them, so direct education along professional lines for best results. Don't neglect religious training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

WORLD

Rebel colonel says air force chief backs him

El Salvador crisis deepens

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A group of senior officers planned to try again Wednesday to persuade the commander of El Salvador's northern Cabanas province to end his rebellion against Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia.

But the mutiny of Col. Sigifredo Ochoa Perez entered its sixth day with no sign that he was prepared to heed orders to give up his command and take up a post at the El Salvador embassy in Uruguay.

Col. Ochoa told reporters at his headquarters in the provincial capital of Sensuntepeque Tuesday he had agreed to go to San Salvador to meet Gen. Garcia and top officers to discuss his showdown with the defence minister.

But he did not leave his province and National Guard commander Carlos Eugenio Vides told Reuters Tuesday night a meeting with Col. Ochoa was scheduled for Wednesday. He did not specify the venue and gave no details of the participants.

Gen. Vides belongs to a five-man negotiating team set up after Col. Ochoa declared himself in rebellion last week and demanded the defence minister's resignation.

The rebel colonel said he had won the backing of the air force and the first infantry battalion for his revolt against Gen. Garcia.

"I talked to (air force chief) Juan Rafael Bustillo yesterday and he assured me of his full support," Col. Ochoa said. "I also telephoned Adolfo Blandon (of the first battalion) and he took the same position."

The names of the officers commanding the two units were conspicuously absent from a communiqué criticising Col. Ochoa's actions which was signed by 28 commanders and published in Tuesday's newspapers.

Telephone links to Cabanas, which has been sealed off by troops loyal to Col. Ochoa, were cut Tuesday and the armed forces announced that El Salvador's news media would be allowed to report only official information on the rebellion.

Col. Ochoa, who views Gen. Garcia's order sending him to Uruguay as an attempt to exile him, accused the government of using dictatorial methods by isolating him in this way.

"They cut our telephone links to the rest of the country and they are denying us access to the media," he said.

The country's top commanders held another emergency meeting Tuesday night. It ended with no announcements and appeared to have made little progress in resolving the crisis.

Podgorny dies after 6 years of seclusion

MOSCOW (R) — After over a decade as Soviet head of state, Nikolai Podgorny, whose death was announced Wednesday, was banished to the political wilderness in 1977, to the complete surprise of Western observers.

Within a day he had joined the ranks of the Soviet Union's "non-people," apparently after a confrontation with then Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev.

In his years as head of state Mr. Podgorny converted the presidency from a purely nominal post to a powerful office and established himself in the Kremlin from rank.

The portly, grey-haired Ukrainian travelled the world, frequently conducting full scale negotiations with foreign leaders.

Only two months before his dismissal in June 1977 Mr. Podgorny led a 120-member delegation on a tour of African states.

Earlier he undertook a series of delicate missions, including trips to the Middle East. He signed the Soviet Union's ill-fated friendship treaty with Egypt in 1971 and a similar treaty with Somalia three years later, the first between the Kremlin and a non-Arab African state.

It was widely assumed that Mr. Podgorny's downfall followed his

refusal to step aside gracefully from the post of head of state — as his own predecessor Anastas Mikoyan had done in 1965 — in order to let Mr. Brezhnev assume the presidency.

However, the clash which brought Mr. Podgorny's expulsion from the politburo, the Kremlin's inner cabinet, and his subsequent dismissal from office was seen by many observers as the climax of a long-standing rivalry with Mr. Brezhnev.

Mr. Podgorny's removal was announced in a short sentence at the end of a report on a meeting of the party's policy-making central committee. No public explanation was given.

It was assumed that Mr. Podgorny, who was married with three children, went into retirement on a generous state pension after his dismissal.

Nikolai Viktorovich Podgorny was born in the Ukrainian village of Karlovka, near Poltava, on Feb. 18, 1903. He went to work in a factory just before his 15th birthday.

As a teenager he took part enthusiastically in the 1917 October revolution, which brought the Communists to power, and by the age of 20 he headed a Communist youth league cell in his native village.

Unsuccessful Japanese politician hangs himself

TOKYO (R) — Ichiro Nakagawa, an unsuccessful candidate in last November's election for Japanese prime minister, hanged himself in a hotel room last Sunday, police said Wednesday.

Doctors originally reported that Mr. Nakagawa, 57, had died of a heart attack while visiting Sapporo, the capital of northern Hokkaido Island.

But a police spokesman said Wednesday that the doctors had falsified Mr. Nakagawa's death certificate at the request of his family and political aides.

Mr. Nakagawa, a leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and a former agriculture and science minister, hanged himself with the belt from his bath robe, the spokesman said.

Mr. Nakagawa ran against Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, now making an official visit to South Korea, for the presidency of the LDP which carries with it the premiership by virtue of its majorities in both houses of parliament.

But he was placed last of the four candidates in a party primary election, winning only seven per cent of votes cast. He and two other candidates dropped out of the race to let Mr. Nakasone take the party presidency and premiership.

Mitterrand's African visit reflects changing policy

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand leaves Paris Thursday for his third visit to Africa within 19 months, a trip which could reflect a more traditional approach to relations between France and its former colonies.

Mr. Mitterrand will visit Togo before travelling on to Benin and Gabon, all three West African states once ruled from Paris.

Official sources said the trip would be an important test following a shift in policy highlighted by the resignation last month of Cooperation Minister Jean-Pierre Cot who supervised France's relations with its former possessions.

Immediately after taking power in 1981, the French Socialist administration said it wanted to adopt a new approach, seeking to promote observation of human rights on the continent while treating African states as equal partners.

But political commentators in Paris say Mr. Cot's resignation seemed to leave the way open for a move back towards pragmatic policies and away from social theories.

Even before Mr. Cot's resignation, Mr. Mitterrand had agreed to receive President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea, criticised by the French Socialist Party and others for his human rights record.

The policy change was also indicated by contacts Mr. Mitterrand had with a wide range of leaders at a meeting with African heads of state in Kinshasa, capital of Zaire, last October.

In his drive to promote French influence, Mr. Mitterrand will discover three very different countries.

While Gabon enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in Africa, Benin — which proclaims itself a Marxist-Leninist state — is among the world's least-developed countries.

Togo is a relatively small state but diplomats say it plays an influential role in African politics.

Mr. Mitterrand's talks in the three countries are expected to focus on bilateral trade and

cooperation, along with such African issues as the strains within the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), and developments in Chad and Namibia, officials said.

Assassination plot

PARIS (R) — President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo was quoted Wednesday as saying Togolese opponents of his government had plotted to have him assassinated during a national day parade Thursday.

But Mr. Eyadema said in an interview with the Paris newspaper Le Matin that a group of five British mercenaries due to carry out the killing in Togo had been "localised" and was still outside the country.

French President Francois Mitterrand is due to arrive there Thursday evening for a visit which officially starts on Friday.

French presidential spokesman Michel Vauzelle said he was aware of reports of possible agitation in Lome but declined to comment further.

Informed sources in Paris said information about the plot had reached the French government last week. They said the government had expressed scepticism about the report.

Le Matin, a paper close to Mr. Mitterrand's Socialist government, quoted Mr. Eyadema as saying: "We were informed (of the plot) by several friendly foreign powers on Jan. 2 and 3. We were able to localise the commando: It is in Ghana."

The Paris newspaper said the commando group comprised former members of Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS) unit and had left London on Dec. 30 for Togo, planning to travel via Benin and Gabon.

Le Matin quoted Mr. Eyadema as saying Togo's intelligence services believed the plot had nothing to do with Mr. Mitterrand's visit.

Security was tight in the Togolese capital Wednesday, with police units at public buildings and on all street junctions in the city centre.

Stern report causes expulsion of reporter from E. Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East Berlin correspondent of the West German weekly magazine Stern, which published a report Tuesday of an assassination attempt on Communist Party leader Erich Honecker, was ordered Wednesday to leave East Germany within 48 hours.

The government's news agency ADN said accreditation for Stern's reporter Dieter Bub was being withdrawn "because of his gross breach of the legal stipulations of the German Democratic Republic, untrue and libellous reporting."

Stern said Tuesday that a 41-year-old shooting worker had attempted to shoot Mr. Honecker on New Year's Eve as he drove

through the village of Klosterfelde. It said the man killed himself with his own pistol when the attempt failed.

ADN said the report was false and described an incident similar in many details to that in the Stern story as involving an armed drunken driver who shot a traffic policeman and killed himself when forced to stop because he was endangering traffic.

The only previous expulsion of a Western correspondent from East Germany was in Jan. 1978, when the West German magazine Der Spiegel was ordered to close its East Berlin office after it reported organised opposition to Moscow within the Communist Party.

'Japan will not play military role in Korea'

SEOUL (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Wednesday rejected the idea of his country playing any military role on the Korean Peninsula.

He told a press conference at the end of his two-day visit to South Korea that Japan's constitution renouncing war prevented any military cooperation with other countries except the United States.

Japan and the U.S. have security arrangements for the defence of Japan.

South Korean newspapers earlier reported that Mr. Nakasone and South Korean President Chun Doo-Hwan had agreed to increase security cooperation between South Korea, Japan and the United States.

"No such subject was discussed," Mr. Nakasone told reporters before returning to Tokyo after the first official visit to South Korea by a Japanese prime minister.

In a joint communiqué with President Chun, Mr. Nakasone pledged the maximum possible Japanese cooperation in the Seoul government's 1982-86 development programme. The communiqué did not give figures but the two countries agreed earlier Wednesday on Japanese aid totalling \$4 billion.

The aid package was agreed in separate talks between Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and South Korea's Lee Bum-Suk after two years of difficult negotiations between Seoul and Tokyo. The South Koreans had originally asked for \$6 billion.

The aid will be extended over about seven years beginning at an average annual interest rate of about six per cent, the officials said.

Mr. Nakasone later told Japanese reporters President Chun had asked him to urge President Reagan to reject calls for protectionism and maintain the principles of free trade.

The Japanese prime minister went to South Korea on his first foreign trip since taking office in November and next week flies to Washington for crucial talks on trade and defence with Mr. Reagan.

Threat to blow up jets in Australia found to be hoax

BRISBANE (R) — A threat to shoot down an Australian airliner unless \$1 million was paid was a hoax, police said Wednesday.

They said they received a second letter Wednesday from the mysterious group signing itself "Group 5 SST" which made the threat.

The letter said there had never been any intention to harm the public or collect a ransom and the group had taken action solely to draw attention to ineffective flight path security.

Australia's airports have been under tight security since a home-made rocket blew a hole in the fuselage of a Canberra bomber parked at an aircraft museum in the city of Brisbane 10 days ago.

The group's first letter, received last Wednesday, said the rocket

attack was a demonstration of fire power and threatened to shoot down a passenger plane of the domestic trans Australia airline soon after take-off if the ransom was not paid.

Wednesday's letter said the group had destroyed the weapon used to fire the rocket at the Canberra. The rocket contained only a token load for the purpose of demonstration, it said.

It also claimed that flight path security in Australia was ineffective, adding: "If the \$1 million can be raised to pay off a terrorist, surely it would be better spent on flight path security."

Police said the letter was genuine because, from a vast number of hoax messages received, it was the only one to match the signature of the first letter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thais kill 5 Vietnamese, capture 1

BANGKOK (R) — Five Vietnamese soldiers were killed and one was wounded in a clash Wednesday with a border patrol after crossing into eastern Thailand from Kampuchea, military sources said. One member of the Thai police patrol was wounded and the wounded Vietnamese was captured. The sources said about 20 Vietnamese crossed into Thailand's Pong Nam Rong district, east of Bangkok, but retreated into Kampuchea after their brush with the Thai patrol. They said the Vietnamese crossed into Thailand apparently after being outnumbered by rebel forces in a skirmish inside Kampuchea.

The worst-dressed woman in the world

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Princess of Wales topped the annual list of worst-dressed woman by U.S. fashion designer Richard Blackwell who said she had "invaded Queen Victoria's attic". The princess, wife of Prince Charles, was last year included in Mr. Blackwell's list of fabulous fashion independents. In his 23rd list of worst-dressed women, Mr. Blackwell described Mrs. Nancy Reagan as being the fashion flop of the year in knickers, three-quarter length trousers, Christine Onassis, daughter of the late shipping multi-millionaire Aristotle Onassis, and Princess Jasmin Khan, daughter of actress Rha Hayworth, were there.

Only kidnaps remain level in Italy

ROME (R) — All forms of crime except kidnapping are on the rise in Italy and the judicial system is not equipped adequately to cope, according to a supreme court report Wednesday. The report, prepared by the court's attorney general, Giuseppe Tamburino, said about 65 per cent of the 29,241 people currently in jail were still awaiting final disposition of their cases because courts were constantly full. It said magistrates had close to two million outstanding inquiries, and 700,000 cases were pending in courts nationwide.

Muscovites urge battle against crime

MOSCOW (R) — Muscovites have urged the authorities to step up the battle against theft, drunkenness and hooliganism in the Soviet capital, the newspaper Pravda said Wednesday. The Communist Party daily quoted party officials, factory managers, police officers and other Moscow residents as saying at a meeting that anti-social behaviour must be combated more energetically.

Half of Zimbabwean women have VD

HARARE (R) — Half of Zimbabwe's women adults and 20 per cent of the total population of 7.5 million have suffered or are suffering from Venereal Disease (VD) and the situation is getting worse, the national news agency Zina reported Wednesday. It quoted a national survey carried out by the University of Zimbabwe pharmacy department as reporting that in one high density Harare suburb 99.9 per cent of adults were victims. In another, almost all women had experienced a sexually-transmitted disease "no matter whether it's a government secretary or a maid," it said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AK72 ♥QK983 ♣J63
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—With your first two bids, you described a hand that is probably unbalanced. Despite this information, partner has opted to play a no trump contract. Pass. You don't have to tell partner that you have five diamonds — there is no reason to suppose that a diamond contract will be any improvement on one no trump. In addition, a two diamond rebid suggests an even more unbalanced hand, or a better than minimum opening bid.

Q2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠KQ854 ♥93 ♠AQJ ♣QJ7
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You have as much as the law will allow for an opening bid that does not quite measure up to one no trump. Now, you should do more than simply rebid spades to show a five-card suit. Two no trump is more descriptive of both your shape and your strength in the minor suits.

Q3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠72 ♥8553 ♠K1062 ♣A95
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 4 ♥ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Don't be ashamed of your hand — you have four trumps to a high honor, an ace and a ruffing value. If partner is interested in slam, you should be happy to cooperate. Cue-bid the ace of clubs. Partner might be afraid to move because he

holds two fast losers in that suit.

Q4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AK873 ♥QJ ♠72 ♣AJ74
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—While partner's bidding does not show much in the way of strength, he almost certainly has a six-card heart suit. Viewed in that light, your hand is considerably better than minimum, because your heart honors must be upgraded and you have prime values on the side. A raise to three hearts is the least you can do.

Q5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠KQ54 ♥93 ♠AQJ ♣QJ7
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—There is common misconception that North's competitive one no trump response is a sign of weakness. On the contrary, it is a positive action, showing about 9-10 points minimum. Therefore, with your 15 points, good intermediates and auxiliary spade stopper, you should be close to game. Advise partner about your ambitions by raising to two no trump.

Q6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠65 ♥AKJ3 ♠AJ8742
 What is your opening bid?

A.—Normally, you should bid a six-card suit, before a five-card suit. On this hand, however, a one diamond opening bid is preferable, so that you can show both suits in an economical manner. With two aces of moderate strength, the higher suit should be opened first, especially if the suits are touching, even at the cost of concealing the precise distribution.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkens

By William Leland

ACROSS
 1 Hemingway epithet
 3 Did nothing
 10 Actress Thompson
 14 Card game
 18 Possibility
 19 Reconciled
 20 Summit
 21 Velvet-like cloth
 22 Did in, in a
 23 Famous
 24 Lure
 27 Glib
 28 One's cool
 29 Farmer, in
 30 Struggles
 32 Barista
 33 Disease and

DOWN
 1 Nut
 2 Set up
 3 Set (time)
 4 Seek into
 6 Gentlewoman
 8 Milewide units
 7 Sector
 8 Chemical
 9 Loss hope
 10 Underdog's role, at times
 11 At — (confused)
 12 Re deum
 13 Vote for
 14 House of
 15 His expertise
 16 Mrs. Shakespeare
 17 Rip
 18 Showman

19 Sculpture, or one
 20 R.L. dep.
 21 7 days
 22 Whatever
 23 Sunk of contemptuously
 24 Collar or jacket
 25 Vile
 26 Word with gold or grass
 27 Used a rifle

28 Novel
 29 Scholastic
 30 Those born under the 6th sign
 31 Black stars
 32 Inspectable
 33 Low go
 34 Teeping root
 35 Observed
 36 Aardvark fare
 37 Male clothes
 38 Certain

39 "Good! What is it?"
 40 El Paso man
 41 Apple
 42 Gauche's rope
 43 Nagging
 44 Like course
 45 Disagreeable circumstances
 46 Son of Jacob
 47 White game state
 48 Choir voice
 49 Leadership
 50 Offspring
 51 White
 52 "and not do"
 53 "a pit in"
 54 "a pit in"
 55 "a pit in"
 56 "a pit in"
 57 "a pit in"

58 Carpet
 59 Outman
 60 Musical
 61 That can be defended
 62 Chemical compound
 63 Stride
 64 Son of Jacob
 65 White game state
 66 Choir voice
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